Page 1 1 2 TOWNSHIP OF NUTLEY, NEW JERSEY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS 3 4 5 PUBLIC MEETING) TRANSCRIPT OF) PROCEEDINGS 6 7) 8 9 BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS 10 BUDGET WORKSHOP MEETING 11 FRIDAY, MARCH 2, 2018 12 13 14 **BEFORE:** 15 Commissioner Steven L. Rogers 16 Commissioner Mauro G. Tucci 17 Commissioner Thomas J. Evans Commissioner Alphonse Petracco 18 Mayor Joseph P. Scarpelli 19 20 Raymond Sarinelli, CPA, Township Auditor 21 Rosemary Costa, CFO/Treasurer 22 Township Clerk 23 Job No. VTNJ 2844179 24 Transcribed by: Pamela A. Skaw 25

Page 2 PROCEEDINGS 1 BUDGET WORKSHOP MEETING 2 3 (Background indiscernible conversation) MADAM CLERK: Board of Commissioners, Budget 4 Workshop Meeting, Friday, March 2nd, 2018. The time is 5 1:34. 6 7 Pursuant to the requirements of the Open Public 8 Meeting Act, Chapter 231, Public Law, 1975, notice of this 9 meeting was published in the February 26th, 2018 issue of The Herald News and the March 1st, 2018 issue of The Nutley 10 11 Sun. 12 A copy of this notice has been posted on the 13 Nutley Town Hall bulletin board and a copy is on file in the Municipal Clerk's office. 14 15 Commissioner Rogers? 16 COMMISSIONER ROGERS: Here. MADAM CLERK: Commissioner Tucci? 17 COMMISSIONER TUCCI: Here. 18 MADAM CLERK: Commissioner Evans? 19 20 COMMISSIONER EVANS: Here. MADAM CLERK: Commissioner Petracco? 21 COMMISSIONER PETRACCO: Here. 22 23 MADAM CLERK: Mayor Scarpelli? 2.4 MAYOR SCARPELLI: Here. 25 MADAM CLERK: All present, Mayor.

MAYOR SCARPELLI: Okay. Could everybody just have a moment of silence for Senator and Commissioner Orechio and Alan Genitempo's dad.

(Pause)

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5 MAYOR SCARPELLI: Thank you. Commissioner Evans? 6 COMMISSIONER EVANS: Thank you. Today we have a 7 budget workshop meeting. This is a -- this meeting is 8 always intended to be a progress report of where we are.

9 As you know, we've been working on our budgets for 10 quite a while and -- and what I've done is asked Ray 11 Sarinelli to present to us basically where we are based upon 12 the accumulative budget and overall where we stand as of 13 today.

14 So, with that, and in -- and keeping our time, I 15 want to turn it over to Ray to go over the highlights of the 16 budget and address any questions or other comments that you 17 might have. Okay.

18 MR. SARINELLI: Okay. So, I thought what I would 19 do is to break this down into four or five parts, but I 20 would first start by saying that this is a review of just 21 the municipal budget, your budget, not the full budget like 22 the county budget.

23 So, of the total tax bill, your segment of the tax 24 bill is 34 percent. So, you can control that 34 percent. 25 You can't control the school. You can't control the county,

but you have been making great progress in the municipal budget given the circumstances that you've been dealing with.

So, I'm going to start with the answer, like where are you and then backtrack to all the details of how you got there.

So, you know, the first thing that's always asked is where are we with the tax levy? You've -- each commissioner has submitted their budget to the finance department to assemble a picture of (indiscernible) appropriations and you have a summary of that.

But the tax levy right now has -- is reflecting an increase of \$1,073,000 or 2.69 percent.

14 The budget appropriations are showing the decrease 15 of 684,000 or a decrease of 1.22 percent.

So, now I'm going to go to this budget revenue sheet. So, I'm (indiscernible) talk about the revenues and appropriations and we're going to talk about (indiscernible) and some other things.

20 So, if you just follow along on this general 21 revenue page. Now, obviously, you can see that right now 22 the use of fund balance is down by 450,000. Everybody has a 23 copy of this document, right?

24 (Pause)

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MR. SARINELLI: I think (indiscernible).

So, the -- if you look at the right-hand column, 1 the change. If you remember last year, you increased the 2 use of fund balance to pay some additional debt and do some 3 additional capital funding, et cetera and the plan was to 4 revert back to your traditional \$5.1 million. 5 There's a little bit of good news in local 6 revenues are up 41,000 as to what you can anticipate. 7 The State aid right now you're being told that you can 8 9 anticipate 85 percent of your transition aid. You're also being told to anticipate the same 10 amount in your other aids for now. We're hoping that 11 12 doesn't change. 13 So, you can see that causes a 551,000 reduction in 14 the State aid anticipated and that's about half of what your 15 tax levy increase is. 16 A little bit of good news on the construction code 17 fees, you can increase the amount anticipated there by a 134,000, primarily because those fees have gone up and it 18 appears that they will stay at that level in 2018. 19 20 The special items, not really any significant change there. That's -- they're offset by appropriations so 21 22 that's tax impact neutral. 23 And, then, if you look on the second page of the special items, it (indiscernible) down 870,000. So, that's 2.4 25 down because of the one-time revenue that you got from the

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school of 476,000, right? If you remember last year, you 1 had a budget prepared that was reasonable -- had a 2 reasonable increase in (indiscernible) and said, oh, by the 3 way, we're cutting (indiscernible) so --

COMMISSIONER PETRACCO: Excuse me, thank you.

MR. SARINELLI: -- (indiscernible) did whatever you 6 could do to get the increase down to a reasonable amount and 7 (indiscernible) including negotiating with the school 8 district to get them to come up with reimbursing part of the 9 school board and (indiscernible). 10

So, if you look down about two-thirds of the way, 11 you'll see that the amount (indiscernible) raised by taxes, 12 you'll see the percentage increase of 2.69 and the dollar 13 amount of 1,073,000 which is where I started. 14

I think I'll just talk about appropriations instead 15 of going through each of the additional pages that -- behind 16 that and are each one of the Commissioner's questions that 17 (indiscernible) assembled. 18

So, you know, there's been a lot of hard work done 19 over the last seven, eight months, I guess, that we have been 20 preparing both (indiscernible) budgets on where you were at 21 and right now. Each of the commission budgets -- I'm sorry, 2.2 the total of all commission budgets, the operating expenses 23 are net down 114,000. 2.4

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I don't think we're at the end, but I think that's
 the point that we're at right now.

In addition to that, there's been a reduction of debt service of 200,000; a reduction in deferred charges for funding capital, a reduction of a hundred thousand. There (indiscernible) for uncollected taxes has been decreased by 86,000. And, then, the amounts paid out to the school and the county on your State aid has been reduced by 355,000.

9 So, the total budget is down 683 and that, as I 10 stated before, that was down 1.22 percent.

Believe it or not, even though right now you're over two percent, you're still compliant with both the appropriation and the levy cap because of the adjustment in State aid (indiscernible) levy cap adjustment for that.

I think there is a better goal to this budget. I don't think the plan is to stop it. The 2.69 percent. But given some of the things that you were dealt with, you know, I'd take the step back and look at the budget, and I really can narrow it down to basically three items that I think were unexpected that created -- if you weren't dealing with them, you would really be at close to zero.

So, Passaic Valley Sewer Commission was a \$197,000 increase which I believe was unexpected because they passed along a percentage increase of 6.5 percent in dealing with the two percent cap. But that's a reasonable percent

increase.

The pension costs were up 386,000 and the loss of State aid was 552,000.

So, there's many, many ups and downs. Everybody cut their budget. Other adjustments. But to get that -that would have gotten it to zero if it wasn't for these three items by themselves that total 1,040,000 and your total tax levies going up a million fifty for the municipal part of it.

9 So, those three items make up for the majority of10 what's really happened in your budget.

I know you looked at a lot of areas for the -- I 11 12 don't want to say for the first time, but we evaluated a 13 number of areas to get to where you were. I know there's been some outsourcing of services provided by the town, 14 15 staffing reductions, attrition our plan for 2018 just 16 to get to the point that you're at and I believe there is 17 still more work to be done depending on what the State decides to do with their eventual State aid package that 18 comes to Nutley. 19

I know there's been some ongoing negotiations with them and I think they will continue to go on until they make a determination and then you'll be able to plan what your final budget might look like.

You know, some of the background for all of this,I think, I just want to give a little bit of information

that I think has been helpful for this budget. The significant part of it is that you've controlled your spending in capital areas. So, you've tried to limit your new debt service or authorized the 1.5 million and that -that has had an impact on this year's budget because the debt service plan, right now, is to go down 200,000.

So, on May 1st, when your notes roll over again,
there's a plan to sell your existing notes into permanent
bonding and that's about \$6.7 million worth of bonds that
have accumulated over the last four to five years.

And there's a plan that's successfully been put into place to not have your debt service impact your budget in a negative way. So, what I mean by that is that you've been budgeting for debt service. We've tried to schedule every bond sale so that there's a drop off point about when you've accumulated four or five years worth of debt service, so you can sell the bonds and replace them.

The positive impact for this year being negative 200,000 in the budget is because the interest rates that we expect to capture are way below the traditional rates when this plan was put together.

But this bond sale that's going to take place on May 1st of '18, also has built into it, after four years, a \$500,000 principal reduction. So, you're going to pay a million dollars for the first four years and, then, in the

fifth year, the principal drops down to 500,000 and that's
 completely paid off after 11 years.

Those -- there has been existing planning, this bond sale includes planning where you'll accumulate debt for your next three or four years and then sell bonds and you still should be in a good position where debt service is not going to impact the budget.

8 Your overall debt position right now is that 9 you've got 14 million in total debt. That's .41 percent. 10 So, you know, \$14 million in debt, .41 percent. You're 11 allowed three and a half percent. I don't know what the 12 dollar amount is, but I can look for you. I don't know. 13 It's probably a hundred and eight million dollars or some 14 crazy amount.

You know, as far as being at .41 percent, that's really on the lowest end of what I see as far as municipalities. No one really goes to three and a half percent. But there's a lot between three-quarters and one and a half. And you're -- you know, you're on the lowest side of that.

If we look at, I guess -- and I have a sheet that you don't have. You know, when I compare your budget and where you've been, Rosemary put together a schedule of, you know, what the average impact the taxpayer has been over the last five years on a percentage basis.

1.98 percent increased and, then, last year, you had a 3.02 percent. I don't know what the I probably should have done the average but I'm sure that's less than two percent (indiscernible) guideline for a five-year period. And I think that picture is very good standing on its own but if you take into a fact that you were trying to deal with Hoffman-LaRoche making a quick exit stage left, and what you were left in the with in the way of lost revenue as a result of that, that's excellent. And I think last year ended up at 3.02 percent primarily because, you know, way into the process, I guess it was in July, the State notified you that they were going to make a dramatic cut in the in your State aid and there really wasn't time to react because you were halfway through your budget. So, just a couple of other facts that probably you might want to be aware of. So, right now, this tax levy has a total increase	1	So, starting in 2013, you had a 1.39 percent
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21 of 1 point I'm sorry, \$1,073,000. In order to get to two	19	might want to be aware of.
	20	So, right now, this tax levy has a total increase
22 percent, you would have to have collect about 299,000. I	21	of 1 point I'm sorry, \$1,073,000. In order to get to two
	22	percent, you would have to have collect about 299,000. I
23 think the goal think most municipalities feel like	23	think the goal think most municipalities feel like
24 they've accomplished something if they stay within the two	24	they've accomplished something if they stay within the two
25 percent levy cap.	25	percent levy cap.

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So, right now, without any further adjustments or 1 possibly any additional State aid, you would be at one 2 million seventy-three. If you needed to get to two percent, 3 you would have to come up with about 300,000. 4 Obviously, if you had a goal of getting to zero, 5 you'd have to get full 1,053,000. 6 A little about the timing and where you are and 7 what you've done going forward. So, you've been working on 8 9 the 2018 budget for months; six or eight months, I quess. We're getting close to the required introduction date which 10 is the first meeting after March 16th. So, I believe your 11 12 next meeting would be March 20th. 13 If all things remain equal, you should be introducing your budget by March 20th and you're pretty far 14 15 along in the process. And I think you would be prepared to 16 do that except I know there's ongoing negotiations with the State and I think it's probably in your best interest to 17 wait until you hear from the State on what your State aid is 18 going to be. 19

Last year they made a significant cut and, right now, they're telling you 85 percent of what you received last year. I believe you're hoping for better than that, right?

There's been a change in administration andhopefully you can have better influence and come up with

1 additional State aid.

I think you're close to being ready to introduce the budget by that point but I -- you know, depending, I'm understanding there may even be further delays because of the change in administration that the initial dates that were established have been delayed once to the March 16th deadline with a possibility of further delays.

8 So, if that happens, I think that's helpful for 9 you as what -- as the budget process goes.

I know you are continuing to review your own 10 departmental budgets and being prepared for the worst, I 11 12 guess, you know. There hasn't been good news coming from 13 the State and where they're budget process has been and how much State aid is available. And I have to believe if, need 14 15 be, you know, you'll be prepared to go back and look into 16 your budgets should State aid not be increased or held the 17 same as prior years.

A couple other minor things. You know, to add insult to injury, Hoffman-LaRoche is also appealing their tax assessment and there is some significant tax exposure as a result of that. So, that's the bad news.

The good news of that is that you have been preparing for that; that your reserves are in pretty good shape. I mean, other than something catastrophic happening in the way of them winning an appeal, you're probably in

1 good shape to deal with that.

I think that covered most of the facts that Iwanted to get on the table.

Mr. Evans, was there anything that you think that we had discussed that needed to get on the table?

COMMISSIONER EVANS: Well, I -- I think you've
already covered it. I think from out standpoint, I have
been in discussions with the State regarding our aid.

9 As of this morning, the good news, so far, is that 10 as of this morning is that in terms of the budget, the State 11 budget, they haven't actually looked at our cut, the 12 transitional aid pool.

MAYOR SCARPELLI: That's a start.

COMMISSIONER EVANS: So, that's a start. Yeah. You know, normally -- you know, it's one of the areas but it is -- it's one of the areas that so far they haven't looked at to actually cut the pool further which could affect us.

So, the good news is that the pool hasn't been cut any further. I'm not -- as of this morning, I'm not aware of them putting any more money into it which would, you know, benefit us.

I'm trying to get clarification for them regarding that, you know, our position is one, that they won't cut our aid any further, and, two, that while statutorily we can only anticipate 85 percent, I'm hoping that before we

13

introduce, they'll allow us to anticipate the full 3.6
 million.

The effect of that is is that that would allow us to anticipate \$551,000 worth of revenue, which would mean our levy increase wouldn't be at 2.69 percent. It actually goes down to 1.3 percent which is well below the two percent.

I think -- you know, Ray referred to, you know, some of the variables. All the work that we did was bringing us closer to zero except that in getting the bills in the door for sewer and -- and pension, right? They're coming in late. That offset a lot, you know, a lot of the work that we did.

14 So, what I would say is that, right now, I think 15 we have to wait to get clarity from the State around what 16 our aid position is going to be.

While we'll get permission to introduce, we, like prior years, we won't get permission to adopt our budget until probably the June timeframe just like in the last few years.

The reason for that is because we're in the aid pool. We can't adopt until the State adopts their budget and get approval on that. So, there's still a lot of negotiation that will go on at the State level between February and the end of May. But -- so, we'll have to, you

Page 16 1 know, delay our adoption until then which means we'll probably be facing estimated tax bills for the third quarter 2 3 and so on. So, I think a lot, right now, is the variable that 4 exists around our State aid. 5 The good news for you guys is is that the two 6 bills that came in for pension and sewer hit my department. 7 So -- so -- so, instead of my department going down a 8 171,000. It's gone up 400,000 because I'm taking in these 9 bills for your benefit just --10 COMMISSIONER: All of us? 11 12 COMMISSIONER EVANS: All of your benefit. Just 13 because appreciate that, I'm sure. That's just the kind of quy I am. 14 15 COMMISSIONER TUCCI: Well, I guess we're getting 16 close to even being that I've been absorbing all of the health benefit increases. 17 18 COMMISSIONER EVANS: Yes. Exactly. COMMISSIONER TUCCI: With the exception of last 19 20 year and this year. COMMISSIONER EVANS: Yeah. Exactly. 21 COMMISSIONER TUCCI: So --22 23 COMMISSIONER EVANS: It's --2.4 COMMISSIONER TUCCI: -- the wheel turns. 25 (Laughter)

COMMISSIONER EVANS: As the world turns, right.
 Exactly.

So, it's -- so, we're -- we have to figure out is 3 is that -- I think what we have to start to look is these 4 budgets already reflect manpower reductions, attrition, cuts 5 in our O%E and we have to now think about, as we go forward, 6 and we have time because we have this window because we're 7 not going to adopt until May, we have this window to figure 8 9 out how we can start to think about anything that could be done further to absorb the -- these late bills that came in. 10 So, we haven't had time to address that. 11 12 And I think the other variable is, you know, 13 getting clarity from the State as to where we're going to be which I -- I think is --14 15 COMMISSIONER PETRACCO: What -- what did we assume 16 from the State that we were going to receive the same number 17 as we did last year or --18 COMMISSIONER EVANS: Yeah. COMMISSIONER PETRACCO: -- did we -- did we -- how 19 20 did you ... COMMISSIONER EVANS: Yeah. So -- so, we assumed, 21 22 overall, that we're going to get the same 3.6 million that 23 we ultimately got last year. 2.4 Under statute, going into the subsequent year, by

statute you're only allowed to anticipate 85 percent of that

1 which creates a \$550,000 revenue shortfall.

2 So, if they allow us and -- to anticipate that --3 at least that, that will help us, obviously, with our budget 4 introduction.

I did meet with them. I met with members of the Office of Management and Budget Treasury, the Governor's Office to relay the history around the support that we're getting for Hoffman-LaRoche.

9 And, as we all have done, right, and we did this 10 with the backing of the State is, you know, our support for 11 the medical school recognizing that doctors of the State of 12 New Jersey, the first private medical school, is a State 13 issue.

And the fact that a major pharmaceutical exited the State is not -- again, it's a State issue. It's not just a local issue which is why we've been able to, you know, get the aid.

So, I was able to do a lot to educate the new administration on the history and ask them -- and what they ask them is to return us to the five and as half million that we were getting in 15 and 16.

22 So, my hope is that, you know, we'll be successful 23 that, one, at least securing the 3.6 so that we'll be able 24 to anticipate the 550 but getting more so that we can -- you 25 know, we can adjust.

1	I know all of you have made hard cuts and, so
2	and the work continues. You know, we we set down this
3	path of, you know, zero basing our budget. We know that
4	there is constraints associated with that with social not
5	civil service, right, in terms of when you can actually
6	execute on some some personnel issues that will I
7	think we'll continue to work on that in 18 and 19, given the
8	transitional issues which requires more work.
9	But I think we're we're going to have to stay
10	sensitive to well, whatever the State out come is
11	regarding our aid and and I would ask that the while
12	we're not introducing today is go back and look at your
13	budgets and see where we can, you know, continue to tighten
14	our belt. And I'll be in touch with each of you to talk
15	about that further.
16	Right now, the big thing is is the
17	continuing to stay in touch with the State to see if we can
18	get a commitment to anticipate the full 3.6 million when we
19	introduce. Which is, as I said, if we did that, that would
20	get our overall tax levy increase down to 1.3 percent, which
21	is about on average, is about \$44 per household on the
22	municipal rate.
23	COMMISSIONER TUCCI: And just as a point of
24	clarification in my department, the numbers that I
25	submitted, all right, anticipated reductions in force

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Page 20 (indiscernible) full time people and -- and temporaries and 1 some part time folks. But it's only anticipated half of the 2 3 year. That's not an annualized number. COMMISSIONER EVANS: I understand. You have to 4 transition. Absolutely. 5 COMMISSIONER TUCCI: Right. Because there are 6 7 notices that -- that need to go out. COMMISSIONER EVANS: Right. 8 COMMISSIONER TUCCI: So, it'll be twice that much 9 in the reduction -- for the Parks Department excepting the 10 health benefits portion, which we all share, even though 11 12 that's located in my department. Thank you all very much. 13 (Laughter) COMMISSIONER TUCCI: It's probably twice that, 14 15 closer to like three percent and over 300,000. But, again, 16 anticipating the appropriate notices that need to go out, what we will realize in this year would only -- will only be 17 50 percent. 18 But moving forward next year without any -- any 19 retirements or anything else, it'll be twice that amount at 20 least. 21 22 COMMISSIONER EVANS: Yeah. Absolutely. 23 Absolutely. 2.4 COMMISSIONER TUCCI: I just wanted to 25

Page 21 COMMISSIONER EVANS: No, that's important. And 1 that's --2 COMMISSIONER TUCCI: ... because I --3 I calculated it based on what's real; all right? 4 If -- if we were ready to go, you know, January 1, 5 which is not possible, all right? Then, obviously, it would 6 have been more. 7 COMMISSIONER EVANS: Absolutely. Absolutely. 8 COMMISSIONER ROGERS: I got something to say to it 9 and I know we've discussed this and it's probably something 10 that I think we really need to discuss as we move forward. 11 12 When do we come to the point where we say we want to make 13 all these cuts. We want to save money. But when do we come 14 to the point that we've reached the point of no return? 15 Where we damage -- damage the -- the public safety of this 16 town, the character of this town. 17 Look, experience, at least of the 40 years that I've been in town, I remember Chief Hunter (ph) and I 18 driving around looking at cities and towns all over the 19 State saying; how on earth did they get to the high crime 20 rates? To the blight? To the reduction in the grid 21 services that they had? 22 23 So, it's just something that I -- I know you're all -- you're all -- your hearts are in that direction, 2.4 believe me. But I just bring it up because it's something 25

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Page 22 that I think at one point, we might be cutting enough to 1 say; hey, look. We've got to draw the line because we may 2 be doing something here that we're never going to be able to 3 turn back. 4 5 And -- and, so, I would ask that we continue to think along those lines, too. And I thank you. 6 COMMISSIONER PETRACCO: I just have one question 7 for Ray. 8 9 Ray, you said we're about 31 percent of the budget; is that what you said? 10 MR. SARINELLI: It's 34. 11 12 MAYOR SCARPELLI: Thirty-four. 13 COMMISSIONER PETRACCO: Thirty-four. MR. SARINELLI: No. You're 34 percent of the tax 14 15 bill. COMMISSONER PETRACCO: Of the tax bill. 16 That (indiscernible). 17 MR. SARINELLI: (Indiscernible) that you've 18 actually (indiscernible) --19 20 COMMISSIONER PETRACCO: (Indiscernible) --MR. SARINELLI: -- you've (indiscernible) 34 21 22 percent. 23 COMMISSIONER PETRACCO: Right. Okay. So, my question is; as you -- like you represent 2.4 other towns and stuff. Are we in the ballpark of where we 25

Page 23 should be as a municipality because I -- I mean, I see a 1 million people and everybody's always filling my head with 2 3 things. Some people are telling me other towns are running 4 at 40 percent. Other people are telling me other towns are 5 running at 18 percent in the municipality. 6 Do you -- I mean, is there a gauge of or an 7 average of where we should be with that? 8 MR. SARINELLI: I don't know that I want to 9 totally put something on the record. 10 COMMISSIONER PETRCCO: Yeah. 11 12 MR. SARINELLI: But I think you're in the middle. 13 COMMISSIONER PETRACCO: Right. MR. SARINELLI: You know, at 35 percent, I want to 14 15 say you threw out some numbers, but I want to say it's 16 probably closer to somewhere between 30 and 40 on average. 17 Maybe some in the high twenties. But, you know, a lot of that has to do with --18 COMMISSIONER PETRACCO: Uh-huh. 19 20 MR. SARINELLI: -- equalized value when you get to the county level --21 COMMISSIONER PETRACCO: Right. 22 MR. SARINELLI: -- this year, et cetera. 23 So, that can be a little bit misleading. 2.4 I would want you to be more concerned with are you 25

Page 24 meeting the needs of your public. 1 COMMISSIONER PETRACCO: Right. 2 3 MR. SARINELLI: -- more than -you're not out of the relevant range. 4 5 COMMISSIONER PETRACCO: Yep. MR. SARINELLI: And certainly -- and it's hard to 6 make a big generalization oh, you know, because you're at 34 7 percent, you're -- you know, one percent better than the 8 9 average of 35. 10 There is so many different factors on assessed value and equalized value when it gets to the county level 11 12 and the type of school system that you run and how much 13 State aid your school system gets. 14 COMMISSIONER PETRACCO: Right. Right. 15 MR. SARINELLI: Right? So --16 MAYOR SCARPELLI: That's what -- that's what I was 17 going to say --18 COMMISSIONER PETRACCO: Right. MAYOR SCARPELLI: Right? So, you would make -- we 19 always want to make sure when people bring that up, right, 20 because I've heard that same mark. 21 COMMISSIONER PETRACCO: Yeah. 22 23 MAYOR SCARPELLI: That you're comparing apples and apples. 2.4 If you -- if you have a municipality that has a 25

sewer utility --1 COMMISSIONER ROGERS: Uh-huh. 2 3 MAYOR SCARPELLI: -- it's not the same, right? Because our sewer costs are included in our budget. 4 5 You know, if the -- if the schools are spending a lot more money than our school district, we could be a lower 6 7 percentage. 8 COMMISSIONER PETRACCO: Right. 9 MAYOR SCARPELLI: Right? So, any time you're dealing with percentages, I think it's -- you can't --10 you've got to make sure --11 12 COMMISSIONER TUCCI: close to ten thousand. 13 MAYOR SCARPELLI: -- (indiscernible) -- yeah. (Laughter) 14 15 MR. SARINELLI: And the State aid -- the State aid 16 is a huge factor. 17 COMMISSIONER PETRACCO: Right. 18 MAYOR SCARPELLI: Right. MR. SARINELLI: And, so --19 20 MAYOR SCARPELLI: It's apples to apples. MR. SARINELLI: -- there are some communities, 21 22 certainly in Essex County, that get a lot more municipal 23 State aid and there are some communities who get a lot more school State aid than Nutley does. Nutley is not in a 2.4 desirable position of -- in fact, I would say you're in the 25

undesirable position of probably relative to other
 communities in the area of getting less State aid than some
 of the surrounding -- municipal State aid.

4 COMMISSIONER ROGERS: And, Ray, you know, my 5 thought is also that when you maintain those services that 6 the people need, your property values are -- you want a 7 township that people are desiring to come to. Not flee.

8 So, that's why I talk about that balance and when 9 you -- you know, bringing up that we have to meet the needs 10 of the people, I -- I think we are. I think we all know. 11 We've been there many, many years. This town is famous for 12 really meeting the needs of the people, above and beyond, 13 that a lot of people are aware.

14

15

COMMISSIONER EVANS: Yeah.

COMMISSIONER ROGERS: Above and beyond.

16 COMMISSIONER EVANS: Yeah. So -- so, you know, if 17 you take what Ray said, if you boil it down to something simple, if Nutley gets -- when you consider our municipal 18 aid, our school aid and the State aid that goes to -- that 19 supports the county, and you put all that together, it's 20 about \$19 million worth of aid which basically covers about 21 22 18 percent of our tax levy; which means 82 percent of our 23 tax levy has to be absorbed locally by our local taxpayers. So, it forces us to actually look to you point is 2.4

25

to actually look very carefully around where we're spending

1 money; how we're spending money. It's why we have a capital 2 program that only allows us to do certain amounts each year. 3 We spread out major purchases to -- to help manage our way 4 through that.

5 And, so -- and when you think about that, 82 6 percent of tax levy is actually absorbed by 80 percent of 7 the taxpayer base which is residential, is a residential 8 taxpayer. And, of that group, 15 percent are senior 9 citizens.

So, it -- we -- and I know -- and I'm saying this because I know you all know this. And when we sit down and we actually talk about what we have to spend money on and why we're going to spend it, we never lose sight of -- of what that responsibility is.

I have been arguing that with the State for years. But, most recently, given the variables with Hoffman-LaRoche and the fact that there was sort of a belief that with Hoffman-LaRoche being here, there was a benevolent benefactor, which gave us a lot of support which we all know

that hasn't been true for many, many years.

That sharing that with the State saying, you know, when you look as these aid formulas and this aid allocation, especially when you look at our neighbors, it -- it begs the question why, right? And simple questions that I raise, like the most recent one was the additional allocations for

20

Page 28 school aid. Nutley got \$154,000 in the Fall for school aid 1 when the State looked at the formula. Yet, our neighbors 2 3 qot, you know, in one case, over a million and in another case almost two million, right? 4 And I'm saying -- and you're saying, like why? 5 Right? What -- how -- whatever's going on with this 6 formula, it doesn't -- it doesn't make sense. 7 COMMISSIONER ROGERS: It's almost like you're 8 being punished for being fiscally responsible --9 COMMISSIONER EVANS: And --10 COMMISSIONER ROGERS: -- and going all the way 11 12 back. Not just with this board of commissioners. 13 COMMISSIONER EVANS: Exactly. COMMISSIONER ROGERS: But with commissioners 14 15 probably going back 20-30 years. 16 COMMISSIONER EVANS: Absolutely. Absolutely. COMMISSIONER ROGERS: So, there needs to be a 17 18 change. COMMISSIONER EVANS: Absolutely. And, so -- and 19 20 when you look at the median income of the surrounding towns, it's not that different, right? Square miles, not that 21 different. 22 23 Population, you know, is not that different. We're a little bit smaller than our neighbors. So, we're 2.4 about 29,000 and Bellville is about 35 --25

COMMISSIONER ROGERS: Uh-huh.

2 COMMISSIONER EVANS: -- in that range, right?
3 COMMISSIONER ROGERS: Around there.
4 COMMISSIONER EVANS: But we're not -- but it's
5 not, you know, significant.

COMMISSIONER EVANS: Hundreds of thousands.
COMMISSIONER EVANS: Right. And -- exactly. But
when you look at, you know, for example, to your point,
Steve, protecting our town, we have -- do not have the
ability to invest in public safety, right, the way our
neighbors can because it's not affordable yet.

You know, and you look at all of our departments. We push everybody to the maximum limit to make sure that we're getting, you know, everything we can, you know. And the old saying, a fair day's wage for a fair day's work. Well, we make sure that there's a fair day's work there because we have to. We have to.

18 We have uncertainties that exist that -- that, you 19 know, we have to be careful about as we look at the 20 transition of Roche.

But, I think, right now, to your point, you know, earlier, if we didn't get the State aid, and they didn't hear us in 2014 and start giving us that money, right? Losing \$5.7 million worth of revenue from Roche, if we didn't have the State aid offset, right?

1

1	While we've been able to manage, you know, our
2	municipal levy, you know, to below for most years to well
3	below two percent, right? Imagine what it would have been
4	if if we didn't get that aid to absorb it because, to
5	your point is, that question, I'm not sure we would be able
6	to find enough reductions, right, if we had to say find a
7	way to absorb \$5.7 million. It's just that would
8	jeopardize the town.
9	COMMISSIONER ROGERS: So, when you take that 18
10	percent of our budget that we get in aid, both on the
11	municipal side and the board of ed side and you blend that
12	with the services that we offer; all right, which is far
13	superior to most of our surrounding communities and to the
14	education that's offered out there; all right? I think
15	we're doing a good job.
16	What people need to realize is that historically
17	and long-term Nutley people will understand this as opposed
18	to our more recent neighbors; all right? We have a
19	different standard; all right?
20	We conduct ourselves a little different well,
21	not a little different, a lot differently.
22	COMMISSIONER EVANS: A lot.
23	COMMISSIONER ROGERS: All right? And if you want
24	your same old, same old, then you're probably in the wrong
25	town.

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1 COMMISSIONER EVANS: Right. COMMISSIONER ROGERS: All right? But if you want 2 a quality town, with the quality education, and top-notch 3 services, there's no free lunch. You have to pay for it. 4 We try and contain the taxes as best we can but 5 there's a cost associated with it especially when you're 6 getting cut from forces that are beyond our control. 7 COMMISSIONER EVANS: Absolutely. And -- part of 8 it, you know, you look at it. If you roll back the clock, 9 right, and to -- to 2000, the year 2000, right? Which was 10 before we started to see the -- you know, dramatic increases 11 12 in the cost of garbage removal tipping fees, right? Because 13 of the environmental impacts. The dramatic increases in medical that occurred. 14 15 And, then, you look at 9-11, right? And, then --16 and look at the bonding that occurred in the sewer and 17 utilities, the water utilities that they don't pay for. They pass that on to the municipalities that are part of it. 18 Part of what we're dealing with is the, you know, the long-19 term effect of the spending that was -- it was done to 20 protect, you know, these important services from, you know, 21 risk, right? 22 23 So, there's a lot of variables, a lot of factors, that really drive --2.4 COMMISSIONER ROGERS: You know, Commissioner, what 25

-- what struck me, and I don't know if I tell you
the story because a few times this happened. But I was over
at Home Depot and I'm in the parking lot. And this guy
comes out and says, Commissioner Rogers, right? I go, yes.

5 He says, I'm reading about these budget cuts. 6 But, he says, you know what? My kids go to school safe. 7 You know, they don't have to worry about getting mugged. 8 The garbage is getting picked up.

9 Your department is on the ball when it comes to 10 these storms. And I -- and I said -- and I might sound like 11 a broken record, but the recreation programs are top notch 12 and -- well, you're doing the finance.

My point is this. We have 29,000 people in this town, 29,000. And my guess is is that the overwhelming majority of them don't want to see the character of this town change. And they're smart. They're -- they're -look.

We may not get many of them at the meetings but they're paying attention. I'm learning that just by the -and I'm sure you have, too, especially Al, in your deli, people are talking and they're really concerned about the future of their quality of life.

And I've heard people say, look. No matter where you go, you're going to pay taxes. The question is what investment is your tax dollar going into? And, in this

1 town, that investment has gone into the top notch -- you
2 know, maybe gold standard. Maybe we are a gold standard
3 town when it comes to services.

So, that's why when I think about what we're going, yes, we've done a tremendous job and I'm not saying we should pat ourselves on the back because this is what we -- we get our stipend to do; all right?

8 But, what I'm saying is that we've been very 9 diligent. But also keeping aware of the fact that what we 10 are going to do is going to have profound impact on future 11 generations.

Look, my daughter and son-in-law just moved to town. They asked me, where should we move? Should we move to Nutley? I said, absolutely.

15 They just invested in a home here. And -- and I 16 told them, I said, look. We're a great town. You know, 17 we're going to maintain a great town. But they read about all this stuff and some of the noise that's going on that 18 the -- that the plain, outright garbage; all right, that one 19 20 has to put up with it whether it be on social media or it's rumors and all this other nonsense. But they want to know 21 22 facts.

And I think the fact is, and I've said this, and I'll say it again, because I said it to a board of education member the other night, and I'm going to have to say it

Page 34 again; the only poor job we do, is we don't market our town 1 and the great things that we have in this community the way 2 I think we should because we have a lot to offer here. 3 Commissioner? 4 COMMISSIONER EVANS: We do. 5 COMMISSIONER ROGERS: We do. So, that's my point. 6 That's that. Thank you. 7 MAYOR SCARPELLI: Very good, Commissioner. 8 Anything else, Ray? 9 MR. SARINELLI: Well, the process, going forward 10 the way (indiscernible) strategy involved here on when to 11 introduce because right now the statutory requirement would 12 require you introduce it by March 20th. My understanding is 13 there's a possibility that the State might offer a delay. If 14 they do offer a delay then I would recommend that you 15 delay introducing until you know what your State aid is. 16 The numbers that were quoted as far as percentages 17 and dollars are -- I -- are not the end numbers. They're 18 the numbers in your -- this point in your strategy of budget 19 introduction. 20 So, if you do introduce the budget on March 20th, 21 22 I think it's fair to say those are not what 23 the final numbers are going to be. But, depending on the strategy of when you get 2.4 your State aid information, you may be required -- may need 25

Page 35 1 to introduce a budget that is not a final produce. But I want to say it may be the start of the formal public process 2 3 of getting to the final... 4 MAYOR SCARPELLI: Okay. 5 MR. SARINELLI: So, I can't tell you for sure whether you're going to introduce the budget on March 20th 6 or not but you may depending on -- but most likely not 7 8 definitely. COMMISSIONER EVANS: And, if we do, it may not be 9 done. 10 MAYOR SCARPELLI: Thank you, Mr. Sarinelli. 11 12 COMMISSIONER ROGERS: Thanks, Ray. 13 MAYOR SCARPELLI: Anything else, Commissioners? Can I have a motion to adjourn. 14 15 COMMISSIONER ROGERS: Motion to adjourn. 16 COMMISSIONER TUCCI: Second. 17 MADAM CLERK: Commissioner Rogers? 18 COMMISSIONER ROGERS: Aye. MADAM CLERK: Commissioner Tucci? 19 20 COMMISSIONER TUCCI: Aye. MADAM CLERK: Commissioner Evans? 21 22 COMMISSIONER EVANS: Aye. MADAM CLERK: Commissioner Petracco? 23 2.4 COMMISSIONER PETRACCO: Aye. 25 MADAM CLERK: Mayor Scarpelli?

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1	CERTIFICATION
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3	I, Pamela A. Skaw, certify that the foregoing
4	transcript is a true and accurate record of the February 20,
5	2018 proceedings.
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8	Pamile Askar
9	Pamela A. Skay
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11	Date: March 22, 2018
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[1 - allow]

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