

TOWNSHIP OF NUTLEY, NEW JERSEY

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

ORIGINAL

BUDGET WORKSHOP

TRANSCRIPT OF

PROCEEDINGS:

March 14, 2014

9:06 a.m.

BEFORE:

Commissioner Steven Rodgers

Commissioner Mauro Tucci

Commissioner Thomas J. Evans

Commissioner Joseph P. Scarpelli

Mayor Alphonse Petracco

ALSO PRESENT:

Rosemary Costa, Treasurer, CFO

Raymond Sarinelli, Nisivoccia, LLP

Job No. NJ1839239

Transcribed By: Nicole Yawn

P R O C E E D I N G S

(Due to the poor audio quality, there are several indiscernibles.)

(Due to participants not identifying themselves, there are unidentified speakers.)

MADAM CLERK: Friday, March 14th, 2014 -- pursuant to the requirements of the Open Public Meeting Law, chapter 231 Public Laws 1975, notice of this meeting was published in the March 10th, 2014 issues of the Nutley Sun -- (indiscernible).

Commissioner Rogers?

COMMISSIONER ROGERS: Here.

MADAM CLERK: Commissioner Tucci?

COMMISSIONER TUCCI: Here.

MADAM CLERK: Commissioner Evans?

COMMISSIONER EVANS: Here.

MADAM CLERK: Commissioner Scarpelli?

COMMISSIONER SCARPELLI: Here.

MADAM CLERK: Mayor Petracco?

MAYOR PETRACCO: Here.

MADAM CLERK: All present, Mayor. Mayor, we also have Rosemary Costa, our CFO and treasurer present. We also have Raymond Sarinelli from the accounting firm of Nisivoccia, LLP present at this budget workshop.

MAYOR PETRACCO: Thank you.

1 MADAM CLERK: I ask that everyone speak loudly and  
2 clearly into the microphone (indiscernible).

3 MAYOR PETRACCO: Okay. Thank you.

4 Good morning, everyone.

5 Commissioner Evans, I guess we'll get started on  
6 our workshop for the budget.

7 COMMISSIONER EVANS: Thank you.

8 Just a couple things. One is just as a starting  
9 point, thank you for the work that you guys have done  
10 already, because I think, while we're definitely not  
11 finished with the budget today, we're starting out at a very  
12 good place (sic), which I'll summarize in a moment, but it's  
13 -- you guys have been thoughtful. I think there's some  
14 areas that we need to look at in the appropriation area that  
15 can be cleaned up, but we have time to do that.

16 Overall, we'll walk through where we are with  
17 revenues, where we are with appropriations, what it means  
18 right now to the levy cap and the potential municipal tax  
19 rate increase and walk through highlights of those just to  
20 get us -- put this all into perspective. I know I just  
21 received your summary of your budget (indiscernible) you  
22 have. You each have a copy of the drafts, and everything  
23 you have in front of you is a draft at this point, but you  
24 have for all of the departments as part of the packet in  
25 front of you.

1           It's a summary of where your budgets are from an  
2 appropriations standpoint, but you have each commissioner's  
3 departments so you can see (indiscernible). And that's the  
4 same as we do every year.

5           So a couple just starting points. One is our  
6 revenues aren't completed because, as you know, we're still  
7 trying to address our state aid in it. The traditional aid  
8 that we normally receive has remained flat year-over-year.  
9 So it's roughly \$2.6 million last, \$2.6 million this year.

10           I do understand that, while the school aid was  
11 generally flat, it did have a slight increase of about  
12 \$80,000 in their municipal aid. As far as transitional aid  
13 discussions, those are ongoing, and we should be able to get  
14 those resolved in the next couple of weeks, and, because of  
15 that, we do not have to introduce our budget on Tuesday.

16           We've been granted a three-week extension for  
17 introduction so that we can continue to have those  
18 conversations. So we do not have to introduce on Tuesday,  
19 as we originally were planning.

20           So, with that, I know you're looking at your  
21 sheets for the first time all rolled up. This morning, you  
22 haven't had a chance to go through them in detail. This is  
23 an opportunity for us to get grounded, but you also have  
24 time to do thoughtful adjusting, and the starting point is  
25 is that I don't see, you know, wholesale adjustments that

1 need to be brought out. It's just I think it's fine tuning  
2 in terms of as a starting point.

3 So, if I start at the top, if I look at local  
4 revenues, they're down a little bit, and you have a revenue  
5 sheet in front of you. Local revenues are down a little  
6 bit, down about \$50,000 year-over-year, and it's spread  
7 across areas around municipal court fines, parking meters,  
8 things like that. They're just all very small area  
9 adjustments. It's the normal adjusting you get year-over-  
10 year. So there isn't anything particularly unique.

11 I already addressed state aid. The construction  
12 code office revenue area is flat, and then, the reason why  
13 the revenues are incomplete is that there's still some  
14 potential for some grants and special items to be brought  
15 into the budget, which we still have to work through.

16 So overall, I would say that, you know, our  
17 revenues remain -- except for state aid, you're looking at a  
18 fair representation of what our revenues are, year-over-  
19 year. And so, what that means is that, with state aid being  
20 flat, revenues generally being the same, any adjustment in  
21 appropriation would have an impact on the tax rate, because  
22 it would be raised to the tax levy.

23 The two things that I would say about that overall  
24 is that, when you actually go to a levy, just to be clear,  
25 against the levy cap calculation of two percent today,

1 without dealing with the exceptions that we are allowed to  
2 have -- so, since our pension costs (sic) are greater than  
3 two percent, our health care costs are greater than two  
4 percent, we're allowed exceptions to increase the levy above  
5 two percent in order to absorb those. With the work that we  
6 all have done and what you all have done is that we've been  
7 able to absorb those costs within the strict two percent.  
8 So we don't have to deal with the exceptions.

9 So the levy right now, excluding any transitional  
10 aid (sic) adjustment that could be coming our way, the tax  
11 levy increase at the municipal level is 1.98 percent  
12 increase, so slightly just below 2 percent. And so, in  
13 terms of the cap, looking at your budget, we're within the  
14 cap, and we're within the cap within the strictest area of  
15 the cap.

16 We actually could, if we wanted to, under the cap  
17 calculation -- this is a really important point -- we would  
18 be allowed, if appropriate to do, we needed to do that, this  
19 budget could actually meet state law and be introduced \$1.7  
20 million higher than what it is today. So we have eliminated  
21 and stayed conservative with our plan that we've been doing  
22 over the last several years.

23 So what that means is, if you take this budget, we  
24 could actually be a lot higher than what we are today. So,  
25 under the law, the question is is that, as we all recognized

1 and what we discussed and was agreed (sic) over the year,  
2 it's not affordable. So we've been very conservative on our  
3 cost managing, as we all have, dealing with less. So that  
4 number could have been higher.

5 We have been below the actual cap allowable spent,  
6 and I looked back to 2011. Every year since 2011 our budget  
7 has been introduced with lower than what would be the  
8 allowable spending, and, in fact, as I look at the municipal  
9 tax load from 2011 where it was \$38,071,000 to what we're  
10 proposing as the levy now, which is -- this is net of  
11 revenues -- \$39,398,000.

12 The increase in the levy from 2011 to 2014 is 3.4  
13 percent. The overall growth (indiscernible) from 2011 to  
14 here, given stable revenues, right, is 3.4 percent. So you  
15 guys and all of us have been really staying on top of the  
16 fact that we don't have the ability to spend, and we're  
17 being very conservative about that.

18 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: So that could have been a  
19 six percent increase?

20 COMMISSIONER EVANS: Easily. Compounded?

21 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Right.

22 COMMISSIONER EVANS: Easily, it could have been  
23 more than that, but we have been holding the line on those  
24 expenses.

25 Where we're seeing part of the challenge is that,

1 at the same time, overall extended value of the township has  
2 dropped from roughly \$3.7 billion down to today \$3.3  
3 billion. So, when you think about that, the change in the  
4 tax rate reflects -- part of it is the lower base to spread  
5 the operating costs over, which has created volatility, as  
6 we talked about over the year, on a household-to-household  
7 basis as a result.

8 The assessed values are down nine percent in the  
9 same period. So you can get to see that volatility in  
10 place. So overall, revenues substantially flat. Revenues  
11 are incomplete because we don't know what our state aid is,  
12 and, when we look at where we are in terms of the levy cap,  
13 we're within the strict two percent, an actual two percent  
14 without having to explain the exceptions that are allowable.  
15 And, with that, if we did follow the exceptions and we did  
16 actually introduce the budget that met that requirement, we  
17 would have the ability to actually spend an additional,  
18 like, \$1.7 million.

19 When I look to the appropriations side -- and this  
20 is all part of what you have in front of you, normal  
21 appropriations are around 1.7 percent. We are allowed -- an  
22 appropriation cap is allowed 2.5 percent. So, on an  
23 appropriation basis, we're up 1.7 percent, all right, across  
24 the departments.

25 Now, and that includes the effect of salary

1 changes, health care changes, pension changes, and all the  
2 department adjustments that we needed to have, and, in that  
3 appropriation, it includes \$250,000 for additional costs  
4 that we anticipated (indiscernible), like these legal fees,  
5 professional fees (indiscernible) that we might need to  
6 incur. So in anticipating that spending, that's included in  
7 this.

8 So I set that out overall. Also, when we look at  
9 the change in the assessed value year-over-year, assessed  
10 values are down \$89 million year-over-year. The most  
11 significant change in assessed values is directly related to  
12 the lowering of the value of the Hoffman LaRoche property.  
13 As we mentioned the other night, it's 85.8 million or  
14 roughly around \$86 million.

15 So, of the \$89 million adjustment, 86 of it is  
16 strictly related to Hoffman LaRoche. So what we're seeing  
17 is that values are starting to stabilize in the environment  
18 that we're in today. And so, what does that mean?

19 When you pull all this together, when you look at  
20 a tax levy that's up 1.9 percent, the change in the  
21 municipal tax rate in this budget -- and it's draft, so it's  
22 subject to change -- is the municipal rate for 2013 was, I  
23 want to say rounded, \$1.13 cents to 2014 it's \$1.18. The  
24 actual specific is 5.4 points increase.

25 This does not reflect any aid. Yet, transitional

1 aid that we could get that could adjust the levy. What that  
2 translates into is five points each tax point -- is an  
3 increase of \$31.50 to each point. The overall increase for  
4 this municipal site, without additional state aid, would be,  
5 on average, \$170 per household for houses, and that's for  
6 houses (indiscernible) \$315,000 (sic).

7 So, if we were to get aid that would eliminate the  
8 negative effects of Roche, the 170 would drop down to \$76  
9 per household and 315,000 per household, and this is only --  
10 we're only talking municipal. So this doesn't include what  
11 the school adjustment would be or what the county adjustment  
12 would be, because (indiscernible). That's specifically  
13 where we're at.

14 And so, by contrast, where we were as a starting  
15 point -- and it's in the prior years -- we were looking at a  
16 \$300 increase, right, \$1 increase, and we were trying to  
17 debate our way through that. Our starting point today at a  
18 municipal level, without any aid from -- additional aid from  
19 the state, we're looking at, in this budget, roughly \$170  
20 increase (indiscernible).

21 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: And, if we didn't get the  
22 state aid that we've been working on, then it would drop it  
23 down to \$76? And, if we wanted to come in without an  
24 increase, what would we have to track in this budget in  
25 dollars, let's say?

1 COMMISSIONER EVANS: About \$800,000.

2 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: About 800,000?

3 COMMISSIONER EVANS: Each to affect -- just as a  
4 reminder, to reduce the tax rate one penny, we need to find  
5 either revenue or reduce costs by \$315,000. So a \$31  
6 roughly adjustment to the annual tax on a house assessed at  
7 \$315,000, we would need to reduce spending by \$315,000  
8 (indiscernible).

9 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Right.

10 COMMISSIONER EVANS: Which is roughly -- for that  
11 tax (indiscernible) roughly (indiscernible). Now, if you're  
12 assessed at more than that 315,000, then you just have to do  
13 the mental math and say it's going to go up a little more  
14 for this person. If you're below, it's going to go a little  
15 less (indiscernible).

16 Just I have one other point. Where we are with  
17 our debt -- as we mentioned, our debt remains low against  
18 our borrowing power. We have the ability to borrow \$138  
19 million.

20 We currently have a debt outstanding rounded to  
21 about 12 million (indiscernible) the level -- the school --  
22 and we're allowed 3-and-a-half percent of our assessed value  
23 is our borrowing power. The school is allowed four percent.  
24 So, for the total municipality, it's seven-and-a-half  
25 percent against the assessed values, which roughly is about

1 \$290 million (indiscernible) borrowing (indiscernible)  
2 together with the school, debt outstanding \$16 million  
3 against \$290 million borrowing power, which means we have  
4 about 80 percent of our borrowing power available.

5 If we (indiscernible) in the future. If we don't,  
6 again, because we keep our capital spending part of the plan  
7 each year, and this keeps it under control so we do not have  
8 the volatility.

9 So that gives you a full summary of where we are  
10 at this point. We're at -- as I said, we're within the cap,  
11 and we have a good starting point for further discussion  
12 (indiscernible).

13 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Very good.

14 (Indiscernible.)

15 COMMISSIONER EVANS: Yeah. As a starting point.

16 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: It's a good starting point.

17 COMMISSIONER EVANS: There's a good starting  
18 point, exactly right.

19 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: And some of these numbers  
20 -- and I can only speak for myself at this point -- do need  
21 to be tweaked, because I know we have police officers at the  
22 academy, all right, that haven't been accounted for on the  
23 health benefits side, but we're calculating that now to make  
24 sure that we have enough in there

25 COMMISSIONER EVANS: Right.

1 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: And we have a few special  
2 items, at least in my department, and again, they're minor  
3 items, but bird control, geese control. It sounds like  
4 trivial items, but they're wreaking havoc on the neighbors.  
5 All right? The geese are filling our parks.

6 So we have money in here to do that kind of stuff,  
7 and obviously, with the winter that we had, some of the oil  
8 bills are higher than we had expected (indiscernible) is a  
9 bit more than we accounted for. Again, minor tweaks, but I  
10 don't see anything major here, and I'm sure we're going to  
11 have a discussion about the health benefits (indiscernible).

12 COMMISSIONER EVANS: Oh, sure, sure.

13 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: (Indiscernible) as we walk  
14 through this.

15 COMMISSIONER EVANS: Okay.

16 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Nicely done. Good job.

17 COMMISSIONER EVANS: Oh, yeah, it's all collected,  
18 and we roll it out and report it out, but it's collectively  
19 our responsibility, collectively, to make sure we do this,  
20 and we've been following a plan, you know, consistently for  
21 several years now, and it's keeping us at a point where  
22 we're weathering the storm.

23 COMMISSIONER ROGERS: If I may, Commissioner? One  
24 thing that'll obviously affect all of us and I know we've  
25 all been involved to some degree is that negotiating a

1 shared service on the garbage contracts with the school  
2 district. Looks like we're going to -- the taxpayers are  
3 going to be saving between 40 and \$50,000.

4 What I did was, you know, I asked the school  
5 district -- or I actually told them I'd like to have half of  
6 that into our budget. So 50,000 saved. They'll get 25,000  
7 saved. And that's the high end. Okay? It may be about  
8 40,000.

9 They've get the 25,000. Hopefully, we'll get  
10 25,000, and Commissioner Tucci, myself, and Commissioner  
11 Scarpelli are talking about the savings that we will be able  
12 to reap from the recycling end of it, the vegetation end of  
13 it. So we're going to see some savings there.

14 What else I did was I spoke to the Montclair  
15 Animal Shelter, and we're coming in \$5,000 less than last  
16 year's contract with them. There were high expenses on the  
17 picking up of dead animals, picking up of stray animals. So  
18 we're able to work out a process where we'll come down with  
19 \$5,000 less, and then, there's other shared services that  
20 I'm thinking about that I'll certainly talk about at the  
21 appropriate time, but I want to thank you all.

22 You've all had some input and some guidance and  
23 advice that you've given me. It's been a team effort, and I  
24 really appreciate it. But we're going down that road of  
25 saving hopefully a significant amount of money as we go into

1 the shared service realm (sic) of things. Thank you.

2 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: So are we ready to reflect  
3 that year?

4 COMMISSIONER ROGERS: Yeah. No, but this is --  
5 Commissioner, good point. I'm coming in with just \$7,000  
6 below last year's budget. It's not included -- that does  
7 not include the savings from the garbage shared service, but  
8 it does, Mayor, include the Montclair Animal Shelter. Okay.  
9 So it includes the 5,000, but not the 20, 25,000.

10 MAYOR PETRACCO: Okay.

11 COMMISSIONER ROGERS: So my question to you is we  
12 passed this budget without that. Will that savings reflect  
13 in this year's budget or next year's?

14 COMMISSIONER EVANS: It won't -- once the budget  
15 is struck, that's (indiscernible).

16 COMMISSIONER ROGERS: That's it? Okay.

17 COMMISSIONER EVANS: Right? So it would be in the  
18 future, and we can talk about whether or not it's known  
19 enough to be able to anticipate it.

20 COMMISSIONER ROGERS: Okay.

21 COMMISSIONER EVANS: Yeah and reduce your  
22 spending. You don't want to end up short on your garbage  
23 contract payments.

24 COMMISSIONER ROGERS: Right.

25 COMMISSIONER EVANS: (Indiscernible.)

1 COMMISSIONER ROGERS: Okay. Thank you.

2 COMMISSIONER EVANS: And (indiscernible).

3 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Who, by the way, has been  
4 awesome (indiscernible).

5 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yeah, well, these numbers  
6 don't really reflect where we are at in public works  
7 presently, because (indiscernible), and we're down a little  
8 bit more (indiscernible).

9 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Okay.

10 Ray, can I ask you a question? How many towns do  
11 you think you represent?

12 MR. SERINELLI: Fifty-nine (sic).

13 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: How would you say that  
14 we're doing, you know, here in Nutley compared to our  
15 surrounding towns and who you represent?

16 MR. SERINELLI: Well, I think that 3.4 percent is  
17 just outstanding, and, you know, many towns see that in just  
18 one year. So, to say over four years that a local  
19 government had a 3.4 percent increase is exceptional. I  
20 can't use the right most excited adjective. You know,  
21 accountants get excited about these things.

22 (Laughter)

23 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: (Indiscernible.)

24 MR. SERINELLI: That --

25 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: That's about as much as

1 you're going to say.

2 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: That's it?

3 (Laughter)

4 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Ray, calm down.

5 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: And that was the explosion.

6 (Laughter)

7 MR. SERINELLI: You're working with, you know, a  
8 governing body that, you know, over a four-year period, only  
9 increased taxes by 3.4 percent, and you've seen or maybe  
10 heard and, you know, -- and I don't remember the exact  
11 numbers, but, you know, looking back over the last four  
12 years across the state, you know, there were numbers going  
13 back. I think last year was 2.7, and then, it was 3.1 and  
14 3.3 and 3.6 was the average increases per year across New  
15 Jersey.

16 The governor comes out with, you know, a fact --  
17 and I think he's coming out with a fact this year that's  
18 even lower than that. So, you know, it's taken all the  
19 other municipalities years to catch on to the fact that  
20 you've been below those numbers every year.

21 It's exceptional. It's unprecedented, you know,  
22 in Nutley to start with a first draft budget that's, you  
23 know, below cap, the levy cap, you know, below a two percent  
24 increase. So I'm pretty excited.

25 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: That's good to hear.

1 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Now look, I think this is  
2 the result of all the feedback that we get pretty much on a  
3 daily basis. People are hurting. The economy's still not  
4 great. All right? And again, for a starting point, I think  
5 we're in an excellent place, but we have to just remain  
6 mindful of how many people that are suffering with their  
7 taxes because of the economy.

8 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: (Indiscernible.)

9 COMMISSIONER EVANS: Excellent. Yeah, as you all  
10 know, we're all guided by a single premise of affordability,  
11 and, you know, we can't determine that on an individual  
12 household basis, but collectively as a town, as we've said  
13 and we said repeatedly, there's certain things you have to  
14 do to keep the town, a town that's desirable and that's safe  
15 for people, whether collecting the garbage or taking care of  
16 the sewage.

17 It's a safe place. It's a wonderful place to  
18 live. People can walk around their streets and enjoy  
19 everything that we do, and there is a cost associated with  
20 keeping a community at that level and avoiding, you know,  
21 the potential for encroachment into the community of things  
22 that, you know, can hurt it.

23 And so, you know, the bottom line is that we're  
24 always going to be able to try and figure out how well we  
25 can balance that question of affordability and what

1 represents the community, right, and the town we need to be,  
2 recognizing that, you know, that's a hard question, and  
3 everybody -- every individual is going to have a number  
4 that's going to fit, but we have to sort of do our best to  
5 reconcile it.

6 So, to the point that this is a starting point,  
7 we're starting off on a really good spot in terms of where  
8 we're going to. Any more tweaking that we can do, you know,  
9 to get us down will be great.

10 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Tom, what's the actual  
11 introduction date that it's going to be?

12 COMMISSIONER EVANS: The second meeting in March.

13 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Second?

14 COMMISSIONER EVANS: Yeah, that's (indiscernible).  
15 So we have a couple -- a little bit of time. You know, Roe  
16 (ph) was pulling these sheets together at 8:00 this morning.  
17 So we all have to go look at them, but -- and I don't see --  
18 one of the things we were mostly concerned about is not sort  
19 of asking questions. It's did we miss anything. You know,  
20 I think two years ago, we missed the sewer department and  
21 (indiscernible). So his numbers looked great.

22 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: (Indiscernible.)

23 (Laughter)

24 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: (Indiscernible.)

25 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: You know, Commissioner, you

1 brought up a good point and something that I'd like to  
2 emphasize is that -- and I'm sure we've all heard it.  
3 People want to maintain -- or if not, see our quality of  
4 life get better, but there's a good quality of life here,  
5 despite the problems that we face. You know, and it's a  
6 pretty good thing to know that -- and you mentioned the word  
7 encroachment, which is very important -- to know that --  
8 because they'll pick up the telephone. Police are there.  
9 Fire is there. Ambulance (indiscernible).

10 I know down at my department they come as often as  
11 they could for assistance with our health department. They  
12 provided a lot of services that we don't talk about, that we  
13 don't hear about.

14 And, Joe, I've mentioned to you -- how many times  
15 did I mention to you Sandy, the storm, that this town was  
16 cleaned up within a real short period of time? And, of  
17 course, my wife and I walk the parks every summer, but  
18 there's no more room left, because people from out of town  
19 are coming to Nutley, and then, to help with the budgets,  
20 you know, working together with the Finance Department of  
21 Nutley. All of that adds up to is maintaining a quality of  
22 life that a lot of people around us have enjoyed.

23 And I think that, Mayor, you mentioned it the  
24 other night. We live here. We work here. We raise our  
25 children here. And to know that we're on a road to keep

1 what we have, I think, is very important to the residence of  
2 the township. Your point well-taken.

3 COMMISSIONER EVANS: Thank you.

4 By the way, it would be April 8th. I lost half a  
5 month of March already. I thought it was the beginning of  
6 March.

7 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I think (indiscernible).

8 COMMISSIONER EVANS: Feels like Tuesday.

9 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yeah.

10 (Laughter)

11 COMMISSIONER EVANS: So it's April 8th.

12 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: April 8th?

13 COMMISSIONER EVANS: April 8th (indiscernible).

14 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Thanks.

15 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: April -- so that's the  
16 first week in April?

17 COMMISSIONER EVANS: Yeah, the first --

18 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: (Indiscernible.)

19 COMMISSIONER EVANS: Yeah, I should have put  
20 (indiscernible).

21 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: So that's April 1st?

22 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: April 1st.

23 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: April 1st.

24 COMMISSIONER EVANS: All right. So I don't have  
25 my calendar in front me. Whatever the first Tuesday in

1 April is -- in April, --

2 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: The first Tuesday in April.

3 COMMISSIONER EVANS: -- that's going to --

4 whatever that day is --

5 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: First Tuesday in April.

6 (LAUGHTER)

7 COMMISSIONER EVANS: Whatever that day is.

8 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Oh, budget stuff. Oh, I'm  
9 sorry.

10 COMMISSIONER EVANS: So whatever the first Tuesday  
11 in April is, let's go with that.

12 (Laughter)

13 COMMISSIONER EVANS: Because I can't get a date  
14 right now.

15 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: (Indiscernible) 3.4 percent  
16 (indiscernible).

17 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: No.

18 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yes.

19 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: (Indiscernible.)

20 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: That's right.

21 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yeah.

22 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: (Indiscernible.)

23 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yeah.

24 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I feel like we're killing  
25 our employees from time to time in the process.

1 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yes.

2 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yeah.

3 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: But --

4 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: We're doing --

5 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Right, but --

6 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: And we are doing more with  
7 less. That's a relief.

8 COMMISSIONER EVANS: But I think it's important  
9 that it's a credit to the employees for their dedication and  
10 what they're willing to do in service to our town. Right?  
11 Because we're all dealing with less. And we're all for --  
12 the guys were out there this last heavy snow storm for,  
13 like, 40 hours, right?

14 There is no mutiny. There is no complaints. The  
15 streets got cleared. Service -- police were out there. The  
16 town's buildings were all taken care of. The heat was on.  
17 Everybody was there.

18 You know, you had your warming centers set up. We  
19 just -- it just clicked, right? So, even with that, you got  
20 to also look at the fact that we have to prepare  
21 (indiscernible), and we are, and I feel comfortable about  
22 the fact that we have, on balance, this whole question of  
23 affordability has to recognize the dedication of the people  
24 (indiscernible) support (indiscernible), us being as frugal  
25 as we can be, but recognizing we're trying to strike that

1 balance, and that's a hard thing to do. It's a hard thing  
2 to do.

3 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Sure is.

4 COMMISSIONER EVANS: The other -- just an aside,  
5 last year in capital, -- and we're not ready for  
6 (indiscernible) yet, but we will. Last year in capital, we  
7 had a special appropriation for roads (sic), and we need to  
8 discuss whether or not we need to do that again. You know,  
9 the roads took a little bit of a beating.

10 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yes.

11 COMMISSIONER EVANS: So we need to think about  
12 what that (indiscernible). So, when you're thinking about  
13 your capital -- I understand, Commissioner, we have to talk  
14 about the data centers and (indiscernible).

15 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Well, with the data center,  
16 the buildings continue to age.

17 COMMISSIONER EVANS: Yeah.

18 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: All right? And we've been  
19 pretty much doing patchwork repairs here and there and only  
20 replacing major system elements as we needed to, and we're  
21 (indiscernible).

22 If I can, I'd (indiscernible). And, because it's  
23 a repair, it doesn't have a five-year life span, and we go  
24 back and forth, but we're at the point where we're going to  
25 have to step up some of those improvements, but I'm sure as

1 we go through, we're going to balance it out. The roads do  
2 need a lot of work. The buildings need work.

3 COMMISSIONER EVANS: And it is.

4 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: This January  
5 (indiscernible) sidewalk snow again.

6 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: We'll figure it out.

7 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: January was especially  
8 tough on the roads. We had fluctuations of temperatures  
9 from 50 degrees down to 10 degrees at least 2 or 3 times  
10 during the month, and what that does to the roads, just as  
11 an explanation, is, when you have bowing (sic), the water  
12 gets underneath.

13 It goes through all those cracks in the pavement,  
14 and then, when you have that freezing that happens  
15 immediately after that, it expands. It causes the roads to  
16 deteriorate. It gets into the base of the road, and that's  
17 why we have potholes, and we're working on those, but our  
18 roads took a beating this winter.

19 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Some of those aren't  
20 potholes (indiscernible).

21 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Like craters.

22 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Like mini-craters, yeah.

23 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yeah.

24 COMMISSIONER EVANS: Like private pools.

25 MAYOR PETRACCO: Okay.

1 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Street pools.

2 MAYOR PETRACCO: Commissioner Evans, thank you so  
3 much for your hard work and your professionalism in laying  
4 this all out. I know it's not easy, and, when we get these  
5 snapshots, it sure looks like it took ten minutes, but I  
6 know it's a long time coming.

7 Ray, thanks for always being there for our  
8 township. If you were a politician, we would call you a  
9 statesman.

10 (Laughter)

11 MAYOR PETRACCO: So we'll just call you a great  
12 accountant, and we're very happy to have you.

13 Rosemary, I know that at the end of these cycles  
14 you probably need a long vacation, but I just wanted to say  
15 thank you especially to you because I know how hard you work  
16 at it.

17 I would also like to say thank you to all our  
18 assistants and people that work for us, because I know that  
19 they take a lot of the brunt of, you know, preparing these  
20 documents and, you know, taking all the phone calls.

21 Just in closing, you know, like I said at the last  
22 meeting, at our Roche meeting, our public meeting, you know,  
23 we're an extension of the people, and I know that everybody  
24 agrees to that, and, you know, walking around the town, all  
25 you hear about is taxes and Roche right now. You know? So

1 I think we're in a great position, a great starting point.  
2 I just want to be clear that we hear the people of the town,  
3 and we are working as hard as we can to stabilize these  
4 taxes as much as we can without making it unsafe, without  
5 making the services go down to a below standard that Nutley  
6 residents are accustomed to having.

7 COMMISSIONER EVANS: Well, I think -- Mayor, just  
8 on that point.

9 MAYOR PETRACCO: Yeah, yeah.

10 COMMISSIONER EVANS: If you look at a levy that's  
11 gone up 3.4 percent since 2011, I think we're doing a hell  
12 of a job of stabilizing taxes.

13 MAYOR PETRACCO: Exactly, exactly.

14 And, just to be clear, like Commissioner Evans  
15 said, we don't control county taxes. We don't control the  
16 board of education taxes.

17 I would like to say this, too. I was at the  
18 basketball game, girls basketball game in West Morris  
19 Tuesday night, and unfortunately, we lost by three points,  
20 but it was an unbelievable game. But a girl fell out of the  
21 bleachers there, and there was probably 5, 600 Nutley  
22 residents there. It was unbelievable.

23 It was a West Morris girl, unfortunately. She  
24 passed out. She fell, and she banged her head, and she was  
25 out on the floor. Forty-five minutes to get an ambulance.

1           So, you know, sometimes we don't know anything  
2 else, because I have gotten complaints here in Nutley that  
3 an ambulance has taken five minutes in a snow storm. So,  
4 when you compare us to most of them out there, I think we  
5 really do a stellar job --

6           UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Absolutely.

7           MAYOR PETRACCO: -- in all of our departments.  
8 So, you know, I think we're in a great position. I think  
9 that moving forward we just have to keep our ears open and  
10 our noses to the grindstone, so to speak.

11           Is there anything else this morning?

12           UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Nothing else.

13           Gentlemen?

14           COMMISSIONER EVANS: Motion to adjourn.

15           UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Move.

16           COMMISSIONER SCARPELLI: Second.

17           MADAM CLERK: A motion to adjourn by Commissioner  
18 Evans. That was seconded by Commissioner Scarpelli.

19           Commissioner Rogers?

20           COMMISSIONER ROGERS: Aye.

21           MADAM CLERK: Commissioner Tucci?

22           COMMISSIONER TUCCI: Aye.

23           MADAM CLERK: Commissioner Evans? Commissioner  
24 Evans?

25           COMMISSIONER EVANS: Aye.

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25

MADAM CLERK: Commissioner Scarpelli?

COMMISSIONER SCARPELLI: Aye.

MADAM CLERK: Mayor Petracco?

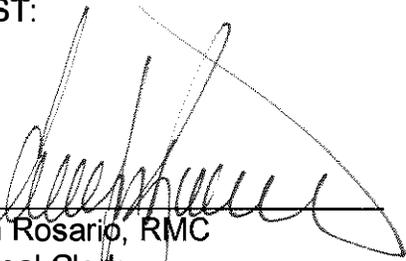
MAYOR PETRACCO: Aye.

MADAM CLERK: Okay. It is now 9:41 a.m. The meeting is officially adjourned. Thank you.

(Whereupon, these proceedings were concluded at 9:41 AM)

**Signature Page/Board of Commissioners  
Meeting Minutes, March 14, 2014**

ATTEST:



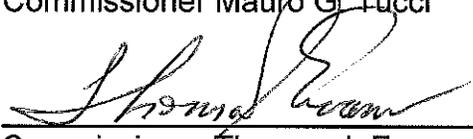
Evelyn Rosario, RMC  
Municipal Clerk  
(Meeting Minutes Approved at the)  
(May 6, 2014 Board of)  
(Commissioners Meeting)



Commissioner Steven Rogers



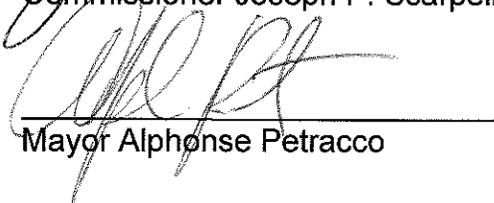
Commissioner Mauro G. Tucci



Commissioner Thomas J. Evans



Commissioner Joseph P. Scarpelli



Mayor Alphonse Petracco