TOWNSHIP OF NUTLEY, NEW JERSEY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

BUDGET WORKSHOP

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
PROCEDINGS

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

MAYOR PETRACCO: Okay. Thank you.

Good morning, everyone.

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

COMMISSIONER EVANS: Thank you.

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

Overall, we'll walk through where we are with revenues, where we are with appropriations, what it means right now to the levy cap and the potential municipal tax rate increase and walk through highlights of those just to get us -- put this all into perspective. I know I just received your summary of your budget (indiscernible) you have. You each have a copy of the drafts, and everything you have in front of you is a draft at this point, but you have for all of the departments as part of the packet in front of you.
It's a summary of where your budgets are from an appropriations standpoint, but you have each commissioner's departments so you can see (indiscernible). And that's the same as we do every year.

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

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

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

So, with that, I know you're looking at your sheets for the first time all rolled up. This morning, you haven't had a chance to go through them in detail. This is an opportunity for us to get grounded, but you also have time to do thoughtful adjusting, and the starting point is that I don't see, you know, wholesale adjustments that
need to be brought out. It's just I think it's fine tuning in terms of as a starting point.

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

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

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

The two things that I would say about that overall is that, when you actually go to a levy, just to be clear, against the levy cap calculation of two percent today,
without dealing with the exceptions that we are allowed to have -- so, since our pension costs (sic) are greater than two percent, our health care costs are greater than two percent, we're allowed exceptions to increase the levy above two percent in order to absorb those. With the work that we all have done and what you all have done is that we've been able to absorb those costs within the strict two percent. So we don't have to deal with the exceptions.

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

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

So what that means is, if you take this budget, we could actually be a lot higher than what we are today. So, under the law, the question is is that, as we all recognized
and what we discussed and was agreed (sic) over the year, it's not affordable. So we've been very conservative on our cost managing, as we all have, dealing with less. So that number could have been higher.

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

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

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

COMMISSIONER EVANS: Easily. Compounded?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Right.

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

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

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

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

Now, and that includes the effect of salary
changes, health care changes, pension changes, and all the
department adjustments that we needed to have, and, in that
appropriation, it includes $250,000 for additional costs
that we anticipated (indiscernible), like these legal fees,
professional fees (indiscernible) that we might need to
incur. So in anticipating that spending, that's included in
this.

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

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

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

This does not reflect any aid. Yet, transitional
aid that we could get that could adjust the levy. What that translates into is five points each tax point -- is an increase of $31.50 to each point. The overall increase for this municipal site, without additional state aid, would be, on average, $170 per household for houses, and that's for houses (indiscernible) $315,000 (sic).

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

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

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: And, if we didn't get the state aid that we've been working on, then it would drop it down to $76? And, if we wanted to come in without an increase, what would we have to track in this budget in dollars, let's say?
COMMISSIONER EVANS: About $800,000.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: About 800,000?

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

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Right.

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

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

We currently have a debt outstanding rounded to about 12 million (indiscernible) the level -- the school -- and we're allowed 3-and-a-half percent of our assessed value is our borrowing power. The school is allowed four percent. So, for the total municipality, it's seven-and-a-half percent against the assessed values, which roughly is about
$290 million (indiscernible) borrowing (indiscernible) together with the school, debt outstanding $16 million against $290 million borrowing power, which means we have about 80 percent of our borrowing power available.

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

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

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Very good.

COMMISSIONER EVANS: Yeah. As a starting point.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: It's a good starting point.

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

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

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

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

COMMISSIONER EVANS: Oh, sure, sure.

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

COMMISSIONER EVANS: Okay.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Nicely done. Good job.

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

COMMISSIONER ROGERS: If I may, Commissioner? One
thing that'll obviously affect all of us and I know we've
all been involved to some degree is that negotiating a
shared service on the garbage contracts with the school
district. Looks like we're going to -- the taxpayers are
going to be saving between 40 and $50,000.

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

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

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

You've all had some input and some guidance and
advice that you've given me. It's been a team effort, and I
really appreciate it. But we're going down that road of
saving hopefully a significant amount of money as we go into
the shared service realm (sic) of things. Thank you.

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

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

MAYOR PETRACCO: Okay.

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

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

COMMISSIONER ROGERS: That's it? Okay.

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

COMMISSIONER ROGERS: Okay.

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

COMMISSIONER ROGERS: Right.

COMMISSIONER EVANS: (Indiscernible.)
COMMISSIONER ROGERS: Okay. Thank you.

COMMISSIONER EVANS: And (indiscernible).

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

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

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Okay.

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

MR. SERINELLI: Fifty-nine (sic).

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

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

(Laughter)

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: (Indiscernible.)

MR. SERINELLI: That --

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: That's about as much as
you're going to say.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: That's it?

(Laughter)

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Ray, calm down.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: And that was the explosion.

(Laughter)

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

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

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

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

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: (Indiscernible.)

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

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

And so, you know, the bottom line is that we're always going to be able to try and figure out how well we can balance that question of affordability and what
represents the community, right, and the town we need to be, recognizing that, you know, that's a hard question, and everybody -- every individual is going to have a number that's going to fit, but we have to sort of do our best to reconcile it.

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

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

COMMISSIONER EVANS: The second meeting in March.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Second?

COMMISSIONER EVANS: Yeah, that's (indiscernible).

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

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: (Indiscernible.)

(Laughter)

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: (Indiscernible.)

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

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

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

And I think that, Mayor, you mentioned it the other night. We live here. We work here. We raise our children here. And to know that we're on a road to keep
what we have, I think, is very important to the residence of
the township. Your point well-taken.

COMMISSIONER EVANS: Thank you.

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

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I think (indiscernible).

COMMISSIONER EVANS: Feels like Tuesday.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yeah.

(Laughter)

COMMISSIONER EVANS: So it's April 8th.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: April 8th?

COMMISSIONER EVANS: April 8th (indiscernible).

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Thanks.

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

COMMISSIONER EVANS: Yeah, the first --

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: (Indiscernible.)

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

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: So that's April 1st?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: April 1st.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: April 1st.

COMMISSIONER EVANS: All right. So I don't have
my calendar in front me. Whatever the first Tuesday in
April is -- in April, --

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: The first Tuesday in April.

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

whatever that day is --

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: First Tuesday in April.

(LAUGHTER)

COMMISSIONER EVANS: Whatever that day is.

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

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

(Laughter)

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

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

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: No.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yes.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: (Indiscernible.)

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: That's right.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yeah.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: (Indiscernible.)

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yeah.

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

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yeah.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: But --

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: We're doing --

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Right, but --

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

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

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

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

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Sure is.

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

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yes.

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

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

COMMISSIONER EVANS: Yeah.

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

If I can, I'd (indiscernible). And, because it's a repair, it doesn't have a five-year life span, and we go back and forth, but we're at the point where we're going to have to step up some of those improvements, but I'm sure as
we go through, we're going to balance it out. The roads do need a lot of work. The buildings need work.

COMMISSIONER EVANS: And it is.

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

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: We'll figure it out.

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

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

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

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Like craters.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Like mini-craters, yeah.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yeah.

COMMISSIONER EVANS: Like private pools.

MAYOR PETRACCO: Okay.
UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Street pools.

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

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

(Laughter)

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

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

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

Just in closing, you know, like I said at the last meeting, at our Roche meeting, our public meeting, you know, we're an extension of the people, and I know that everybody agrees to that, and, you know, walking around the town, alls you hear about is taxes and Roche right now. You know? So
I think we're in a great position, a great starting point. I just want to be clear that we hear the people of the town, and we are working as hard as we can to stabilize these taxes as much as we can without making it unsafe, without making the services go down to a below standard that Nutley residents are accustomed to having.

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

MAYOR PETRACCO: Yeah, yeah.

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

MAYOR PETRACCO: Exactly, exactly.

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

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

It was a West Morris girl, unfortunately. She passed out. She fell, and she banged her head, and she was out on the floor. Forty-five minutes to get an ambulance.
So, you know, sometimes we don't know anything else, because I have gotten complaints here in Nutley that an ambulance has taken five minutes in a snow storm. So, when you compare us to most of them out there, I think we really do a stellar job --

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Absolutely.

MAYOR PETRACCO: -- in all of our departments.

So, you know, I think we're in a great position. I think that moving forward we just have to keep our ears open and our noses to the grindstone, so to speak.

Is there anything else this morning?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Nothing else.

Gentlemen?

COMMISSIONER EVANS: Motion to adjourn.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Move.

COMMISSIONER SCARPELLI: Second.

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

Commissioner Rogers?

COMMISSIONER ROGERS: Aye.

MADAM CLERK: Commissioner Tucci?

COMMISSIONER TUCCI: Aye.

MADAM CLERK: Commissioner Evans? Commissioner Evans?

COMMISSIONER EVANS: Aye.
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