

BERGEN COUNTY
BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS
HACKENSACK, NEW JERSEY
PUBLIC MEETING
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 19, 2019
COMMENCING AT 7:13 P.M.

FREEHOLDERS PRESENT:

GERMAINE M. ORTIZ, CHAIRWOMAN

MARY J. AMOROSO, VICE CHAIRWOMAN

DR. JOAN M. VOSS, CHAIRWOMAN PRO TEMPORE

THOMAS J. SULLIVAN

DAVID L. GANZ

STEVEN A. TANELLI

FREEHOLDERS ABSENT:

TRACY SILNA ZUR

KIM O. FURBACHER, C.C.R., R.M.R.
P.O. BOX 213
ROCHELLE PARK, NEW JERSEY 07662-0213
201-336-6200

1
2
3 ALSO PRESENT:
4

5 LARA RODRIGUEZ
6 CLERK TO THE BOARD

7 JULIEN X. NEALS, ESQUIRE
8 ACTING COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

9 EDWARD J. FLORIO, ESQUIRE
10 COUNSEL TO THE BOARD

11 ADAM STROBEL, DIRECTOR
12 DIVISION OF OPEN SPACE - LAND MANAGEMENT

13 MICHAEL SPINA, PLA
14 BIOHABITATS

15 MICHAEL SHEINFELD
16 DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS & POLICY

17 STORM WYCHE
18 DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS & POLICY
19
20
21
22
23

24 KIM O. FURBACHER, C.C.R., R.M.R.
25 P.O. BOX 213
ROCHELLE PARK, NEW JERSEY 07662-0213
201-336-6200

I N D E XPAGE NO.

ROLL CALL	5
PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE	6
MOMENT OF SILENCE	6
MINUTES	9
HEARING OF THE GENERAL PUBLIC	9
PUBLIC HEARING - 2019 GREEN ACRES GRANT	45
RESOLUTIONS OF CONSENT	66
RESOLUTIONS OF NONCONSENT (NONE)	
ORDINANCES	67
COMMITTEE REPORTS FROM FREEHOLDERS	76

HEARING OF THE GENERAL PUBLIC

<u>NAME</u>	<u>PAGE</u>
Randy Glover	10
Salvatore Moretti	12
Paula Rogovin	13
Richard Grant	15
Ken Dolsky	20
Cassandra Worthington	26
Ted Glick	28
Hannah Kohn	30
Laurie Ludmer	35
Karlos Edmonds	37
Nick Lento	38, 64
Matt Smith	41
Adam Strobel	46
Michael Spina	49
Carinne Murphy	63

1 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: The meeting is
2 called to order at 7:13 p.m.

3 Before we begin our meeting, I ask that
4 everyone please take a moment to silence your
5 cellphones.

6 Thank you.

7 Will the Clerk please read the
8 compliance with the Sen. Byron Baer Open Public
9 Meetings Act.

10 MS. RODRIGUEZ: In accordance with
11 Section 5 of the Sen. Byron Baer Open Public Meetings
12 Act, adequate notice of this meeting has been
13 provided in the Annual Notice Schedule, which
14 contained the time, date, and location of this
15 meeting, copies of which Notices were forwarded to
16 the official County newspapers, to wit: The Herald
17 News and The Record, and a copy of which was posted
18 on the bulletin board in the Bergen County Justice
19 Center and Administration Building, One Bergen County
20 Plaza, Hackensack, New Jersey, and filed with the
21 Office of the Bergen County Clerk.

22 ROLL CALL

23 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Will the Clerk
24 please call the roll.

25 (At this point in the proceeding roll

1 call is taken with Freeholders Ganz, Sullivan,
2 Tanelli, Voss, Vice-Chairwoman Amoroso, and
3 Chairwoman Ortiz present, with Freeholder Silna Zur
4 absent.)

5 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Evidence of a quorum
6 is present.

7 PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

8 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Everyone please rise
9 for the Pledge of Allegiance.

10 Freeholder Voss, would you like to lead
11 us.

12 FREEHOLDER VOSS: Please join me in
13 honoring America.

14 (At this point in the proceeding all
15 rise for a recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance,
16 led by Freeholder Voss.)

17 MOMENT OF SILENCE

18 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Please remain
19 standing for three Moments of Silence.

20 We remember Bergen County business
21 owner and a decorated Navy veteran of World War II,
22 Joseph "Lucky" Brammer.

23 Lucky was an active member of multiple
24 organizations throughout Bergen County, having strong
25 ties to American Legion Post #876 in River Edge,

1 American Legion Post #170 in Rochelle Park, and
2 working with the Mounted Patrol Division of the
3 Bergen County Sheriff's Office.

4 For 65 years, Lucky held the title of
5 Master Mason of Euclid Lodge #136 in Hasbrouck
6 Heights and later was awarded the high honor of being
7 a recipient of the Distinguished White Apron.

8 Joseph Brammer passed on Monday,
9 March 11th, at the age of 94, a loss that was felt
10 deeply throughout a multitude of Bergen County
11 communities.

12 We also remember Army veteran Dr. Alan
13 William Sugarman. Dr. Sugarman dedicated his life to
14 education in all forms; from being an entrance
15 examiner for Boston University, to becoming the
16 principal at New York Junior and Senior High Schools.
17 Dr. Sugarman also had memberships in a multitude of
18 educational organizations.

19 From 1980 until 2000, Bergen County got
20 to witness and be part of Alan Sugarman's passion and
21 dedication for the youth and their education, when he
22 served as Fort Lee superintendent.

23 On Saturday, March 16th, Alan William
24 Sugarman passed away at the age of 94. His passing
25 will not only be remembered and honored by Bergen

1 County but by every community throughout the county
2 he has graced with his service.

3 Last Thursday, in Christchurch,
4 New Zealand, 50 people were murdered and 39 more were
5 seriously injured, some critically, in a mass
6 shooting at two mosques during Friday prayer. These
7 losses were senseless and driven by hate.

8 While there is no specific or credible
9 hate towards mosques or other houses of worship in
10 Bergen County, we understand that many people are
11 feeling sadness, fear, and shock. We thank the
12 Bergen County Sheriff's Department for increased
13 patrols around houses every worship at this time,
14 and, as always, we stand with our community against
15 hate and violence.

16 (Whereupon a Moment of Silence is
17 observed.)

18 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Thank you.

19 Our next on-the-road meeting this year
20 will be held in Little Ferry on Wednesday, April 3rd,
21 at 7:00 p.m. at Borough Hall, Council Chambers,
22 215-217 Liberty Street.

23 The 4:30 p.m. Work Session that day
24 will be held, as usual, in the Calabrese Caucus Room
25 at One Bergen County Plaza.

1 MINUTES

2 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Will the Clerk read
3 the minutes to be accepted.

4 MS. RODRIGUEZ: Minutes to be accepted
5 are:

6 February 27, 2019 - Work Session; all
7 present.

8 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: May I have a motion
9 to accept the minutes?

10 FREEHOLDER GANZ: Move the minutes.

11 VICE-CHAIRWOMAN AMOROSO: Second.

12 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: All in favor?

13 (All present Freeholders respond in the
14 affirmative.)

15 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Opposed?

16 (No response.)

17 HEARING OF THE GENERAL PUBLIC

18 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: May I have a motion
19 to open the meeting to the public?

20 FREEHOLDER VOSS: So moved.

21 FREEHOLDER GANZ: So moved.

22 FREEHOLDER TANELLI: Second.

23 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Thank you.

24 All in favor?

25 (All present Freeholders respond in the

1 affirmative.)

2 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Opposed?

3 (No response.)

4 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: The meeting is open
5 to the public.

6 We will now have the Hearing of the
7 General Public, with a three-minute time limit in
8 effect, in accordance with Bergen County Freeholder
9 bylaws.

10 The Board Attorney will keep the time.

11 When the time of the speaker expires,
12 the Board Attorney will announce that time has
13 expired.

14 Please fill out the slip of paper with
15 your name, address, and general topic you wish to
16 speak about.

17 Karen Rosen.

18 MS. ROSEN: Here.

19 I'm not speaking.

20 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: She doesn't want to
21 speak. All right. Okay. Thank you.

22 Mr. Randy Glover.

23 MR. GLOVER: Hello, Chairwoman,
24 Freeholders.

25 I will keep it quick, light, and airy.

1 This was a letter I sent to Michele
2 DiIorgi earlier today.

3 As you might not or might know, we had
4 a small gala here in the building Friday evening, and
5 basically it was due to Michele and Freeholder Ganz,
6 their constant assistance. So I just sent them a
7 letter saying:

8 "What a success! The Bergen County
9 community has now enjoyed its second annual Bergen
10 County Film Festival Gala, and the event is getting
11 rave reviews. On behalf of the Tri-Arc Community
12 Development Corporation Board of Directors, I want to
13 extend our heartfelt thank you to your executive
14 staff and its commitment to making this event so
15 successful.

16 "It was the vision of the Board of
17 Directors and the producers to celebrate, entertain,
18 and provide a networking forum for our filmmakers,
19 award winners, and community to have a pleasant and
20 comfortable space to celebrate. Your generous
21 contribution helped to make that vision a reality.

22 "By helping to offset the cost of
23 holding the gala in the beautiful County Executive
24 building, we were able to deliver a premium
25 experience to all in attendance. As we continue to

1 grow, please know that partnerships with our elected
2 officials are vital to the success of our vision and
3 our community. You are truly appreciated. Thanks
4 again."

5 And that's on my behalf, I'm the
6 Chairman; my corporate counsel is Christopher
7 Bennett; my general counsel is William McGuggins;
8 secretary, Ms. Erika Williams; and member Rev.
9 George Maize IV of Trinity. And then the producers,
10 Deborah Keeling-Geddis, Sherri Pullum-Robinson, Dr.
11 Funlayo E. Wood-Menzies, and Erika Williams-Glover.

12 Thank you.

13 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Thank you.

14 Sal Moretti.

15 MR. MORETTI: Salvatore Moretti, Alpine
16 Drive, Paramus.

17 I'd like to bring your attention to the
18 2018 DVD entitled "The Catcher was a Spy." It is
19 about Morris Berg, a pharmacist's son from Newark, he
20 was originally from the Ukraine. In 1890, he
21 graduated from Barringer High School, Princeton
22 College, and Columbia Law School, graduating just
23 before the 1929 Depression.

24 He was a catcher for the Boston Red
25 Socks, visiting Japan with Babe Ruth.

1 He enlisted for civilian service during
2 World War II. He was hired as a spy by William
3 Donovan of the OSS, Office of Special Services. His
4 mission was to check on the development by the German
5 scientists of the construction of a nuclear bomb.
6 This brought him to Zurich, Switzerland and an
7 interview with Werner Heisenberg.

8 His story is reviewed somewhat in my
9 1956 screenplay "Forbidden Planet" and a recent
10 PowerPoint presentation I delivered in Hasbrouck
11 Heights.

12 I've offered Paramus the presentation
13 sometime ago. Since we're located next to a media
14 capital, it is worth your attention. The title of it
15 is "Three Branches, One Tree of Knowledge."

16 It's 1:37, and I guess I will sign off
17 at this time.

18 Thank you.

19 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Thank you, Mr.
20 Moretti.

21 Paula Rogovin.

22 MS. ROGOVIN: Hello. Paula Rogovin,
23 Teaneck, New Jersey.

24 I'm here because -- oh, first I want to
25 thank you for your comments about the tragedy in New

1 Zealand. Thank you.

2 I'm here because there's a climate
3 emergency.

4 At the Freeholders Workshop Meeting
5 last week, I was told that passing a resolution would
6 just be ornamental. I was also told by some
7 Freeholders this is not a Bergen County problem, we
8 should take our concerns to the Hudson County
9 Freeholders.

10 This was upsetting to me, because I'm
11 holding this document dating back to 2017 that shows
12 a confidentiality agreement between the Bergen County
13 Utilities Authority and the North Bergen Liberty
14 Generating Company dealing with pipes and a pumping
15 station, a 30-year agreement to deal with the
16 wastewater that would be used to cool the power
17 plant.

18 As the Bergen County Utilities
19 Authority is comprised of commissioners who are
20 appointed by the County Executive with the consent of
21 the Freeholders, I'm wondering how many of you know
22 about that confidentiality agreement, because to tell
23 us that it's not a concern of Bergen County is quite
24 shocking to me and upsetting to me.

25 Last week, I explained that while the

1 fracked gas Meadowlands power plant would be built in
2 North Bergen, it would be adjacent to Ridgefield.
3 Some of you sang with me "The answer my friends is
4 blowing in the wind, the answer is blowing in the
5 wind." And that's because the pollutants from that
6 power plant, the carbon monoxide, the ammonia, the
7 methane, the sulfur dioxide, the ozone, other toxics,
8 will cause heart and lung disease and cancers, it
9 will blow into the lungs of people in Hudson, Bergen
10 and beyond. Each of us, it's not ornamental, each of
11 us has a role to play to stop the frack gas power
12 plant. Some signed petitions, some make phone calls,
13 49 towns passed resolutions, we've had educational
14 forums and rallies and billboards and marches and
15 statements from elected officials. If the Bergen
16 County Freeholders stood up, as so many others of us
17 have done already, your voice, along with thousands
18 of residents, would move the governor to stop this
19 dangerous project. It's not ornamental, it's just
20 how democracy works. We all of us need to work
21 together.

22 Thank you.

23 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Thank you.

24 Richard Grant.

25 MR. GRANT: Richard Grant. I'm a

1 resident of Hackensack.

2 The thing I do is administer a Facebook
3 group called "Climate Action and Clean Energy
4 Update," and I spent several years reading articles
5 and analyses posted at websites for energy sector
6 professionals.

7 I'm urging you to pass a resolution
8 against the North Bergen Liberty Generating project,
9 because not only it's a typical project that is going
10 to prevent resources from going to renewable energy
11 and energy storage and energy efficiency, it's going
12 to have a life of maybe 30, 40 years. And, if you
13 remember, we're only half a week away from
14 1.4 million children around the world realizing that
15 they're going to be outliving many of us, and
16 everything we do is going to make a little bit of
17 difference in keeping that global warming down.

18 Back on our doorstep, the developer of
19 the North Bergen Liberty Generating project has
20 created a website, and it states that the project is
21 intended to replace energy capacity after Indian
22 Point Nuclear Power Plant is closed.

23 There's a problem with that, because
24 the website also states that the plant's construction
25 would take three years and it would generate

1 1,200 megawatts of electricity.

2 But if you go back and read the news
3 articles from 2017, after the announcement was made
4 about the closure, it's obvious that New York State
5 government was planning years in advance to deal with
6 losing 2,000 megawatts. They didn't want a couple of
7 years of rolling blackouts, that's how you lose your
8 job as an elected official, you make people very
9 angry. So what they did, and it's in these news
10 articles, they issued a statement. The state is
11 fully prepared to replace the power generated by the
12 plant at a negligible cost, with transmission
13 upgrades, efficiency measures and other resources
14 ready to come online by 2021, April, which is when
15 Indian Point is actually going to close.

16 Also, New York State's grid operator
17 issued a report in 2017 stating that there were three
18 gas-fired power plants in New York State under
19 construction with total capacity of 1,800 megawatts
20 that would be available by 2021, and it even named
21 them, Bayonne Energy Center II, CPV Valley Energy
22 Center, and Cricket Valley Energy Center.

23 There's also a timing concern. The
24 developers of this project are saying it's going to
25 take three years to construct. Well, if the

1 groundbreaking were to begin tomorrow, March 20,
2 2019, the plant would not go online until almost one
3 year after Indian Point closes.

4 And, more realistically, if the
5 developer were able to obtain all of the needed
6 permits and approvals by no earlier than second half
7 of 2020, the plant would not go online until more
8 than two years after Indian Point closed.

9 Can the developer --

10 MR. FLORIO: Three minutes, Mr. Grant.

11 MR. GRANT: Sir?

12 MR. FLORIO: Three minutes. Your time
13 is expired.

14 MR. GRANT: Okay. Thank you.

15 MR. FLORIO: The Court Reporter will
16 include the entirety of Mr. Grant's statement within
17 the record.

18 [FOLLOWING IS THE REMAINDER OF MR.
19 GRANT'S STATEMENT:

20 "And third difference: Capacity.
21 Those articles stated that Indian Point's two units
22 together generate just over 2,000 MW, a quarter of
23 New York City's power demand. But the developer's
24 stated plant capacity is 1,200 MW, just 60 percent of
25 the capacity being retired. If the developer's plant

1 is intended to help replace Indican Point's capacity,
2 what is the rationale for the difference?

3 "Can the developer be unaware that New
4 York State, before deciding to close Indian Point,
5 had a planning process to avoid years of rolling
6 blackouts? If the developer's 1,200 MW are not
7 actually needed to replace retired capacity and if,
8 as in California, technologies are advancing, the
9 costs of renewables and battery energy storage are
10 dropping steadily, and governments and companies are
11 taking actions that embody voter and consumer
12 preferences for clean energy, how likely is it that
13 there would be any market demand for the electricity
14 produced by the plant from the day it went online?
15 If market demand were dicey, how would the plant earn
16 revenues over decades of its expected life to pay
17 taxes to New Jersey and North Bergen, as well as to
18 pay local contractors for plant maintenance? Would
19 the only result of constructing the plant be to
20 create some temporary jobs?

21 "What our county, our state, and our
22 nation do not need is a future stranded asset.
23 Instead, what we need are more jobs in renewable
24 energy and energy efficiency, jobs that will not have
25 a connection to adverse effects on anyone's health

1 and that will bolster the efforts to stave off the
2 worst of the impacts of climate change in the
3 remaining years that we can act to do so.

4 "Thank you."

5 END OF STATEMENT]

6 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Ken Dolsky.

7 MR. DOLSKY: Good evening and thank you
8 for the opportunity to speak.

9 I would like to go back to the 3-16
10 meeting that was held here. There were a number of
11 statements made about the Meadowlands power plant
12 that were somewhat misleading, so I would like to
13 address a few of them, not to debate them, but to
14 provide some further context for your decision on
15 supporting or opposing the Meadowlands power plant.

16 The first statement was that the
17 Meadowlands power plant will be the cleanest power
18 generating facility ever built in the northeast.

19 Okay. I don't know about the veracity
20 of the statement, maybe you do, but regardless of the
21 veracity of the statement, Diamond Energy, the
22 builder, has told the DEP that this plant will emit
23 the following pollutants annually. This is the plant
24 builder's statement.

25 Two and a half to three and a half

1 million metric tons of CO₂; 423 metric tons every
2 year of carbon monoxide, which is toxic and linked to
3 heart disease; 305 metric tons of nitrous oxides, a
4 key ingredient in ozone that causes acid rain,
5 affects respiratory systems, and premature death;
6 376 tons of particulate matter, that diminished lung
7 capacity cause asthma and premature death; 262 metric
8 tons of ammonia, which reacts nitrogen oxides to form
9 nitric acid, damages respiratory systems and cause
10 respiratory failure; 73 to 1,000 metric tons of
11 methane, which causes irregular heartbeat and sudden
12 death; and 52 metric tons of sulfur dioxides, which
13 is toxic and lowers resistance to heart and lung
14 disease. And there's another long history of others
15 that I won't bother to go into.

16 And this level of emissions that will
17 come out of this plant will go on every year for 30
18 to 40 years.

19 Now, the second comment that I would
20 like to address is when the Freeholders, I believe,
21 made that said that you've been in contact with the
22 Governor's Office and the DEP, and that the DEP is
23 aware of our concerns and that they're conducting a
24 thorough review. And I believe you said that the
25 health and safety of constituents in Bergen County is

1 your paramount concern, but if the plant endangers
2 the residents of Bergen County, there are major
3 enforceable measures that are available that can be
4 pursued beyond seeking a ceremonial resolution.

5 So, first, it's wonderful to hear that
6 the health and safety of Bergen County constituents
7 is your paramount concern. I think we all agree on
8 that.

9 We have met with the DEP a couple of
10 times. The DEP will do its jobs within the limits of
11 what its empowered to do, and it cannot go beyond
12 those limits. We've met twice with them, and what
13 we've learned is, first, they have very limited power
14 to deny permits based on greenhouse gases. And they
15 have told us they will not deny an air permit for
16 this plant based on the greenhouse gas emissions,
17 even though it has the potential to increase
18 greenhouse gases in New Jersey overall by over three
19 percent.

20 They have said this plant will exceed
21 EPA limits on ozone, but will be allowed to exceed
22 that limit as long as they buy ozone credits from
23 defunct power plants.

24 MR. FLORIO: Three minutes, Mr. Dolsky.

25 MR. DOLSKY: That's three minutes?

1 MR. FLORIO: Yes, sir.

2 Kim, the same request with that
3 statement that it would be in the record in its
4 entirety.

5 Thank you.

6 [FOLLOWING IS THE REMAINDER OF MR.
7 DOLSKY'S STATEMENT:

8 "They will not stop this plant from
9 emitting 3.5 million tons per year of CO₂ and any
10 amount of ozone. So, this plant will endanger
11 residents of Bergen County and there are no further
12 enforceable measures that can be taken to stop this.
13 If you are really serious about the health and safety
14 of Bergen County constituents being your paramount
15 concern, you will lend your political voice to the
16 chorus asking Gov. Murphy to stop this power plant
17 now.

18 "Statement: We can't impose huge bills
19 on our residents here in Bergen County. For one
20 million residents that live here, you're talking
21 double the electric bill - double or triple.

22 "Response: First, as we all agree, the
23 power from this plant will only go to New York, so
24 Bergen County residents will not pay any more or less
25 in electric bills regardless of what happens with

1 this plant. The only cost increase for Bergen County
2 residents will be the cost of health care.

3 "Second, Paul Baldauf (Assistant DEP
4 Commissioner for Air Quality, Energy and
5 Sustainability) at a meeting this February, said
6 New Jersey does not need any more power plants;
7 electric energy demand is flat.

8 "Third, wind and solar are very
9 competitive with gas. The price of renewable energy
10 and storage is trending downward, while the already
11 super-low price of natural gas, especially in the
12 U.S., has nowhere to go but up.

13 "According to Greentech Media, energy
14 industry analysts at Wood Mackenzie say the
15 combination of renewables with battery systems can
16 currently replace approximately two-thirds of U.S.
17 natural gas turbines right now. Estimates predict
18 the cost of storage alone could drop 80 percent by
19 2040.

20 "Statement: Oyster Creek, Hudson
21 Generating, Duck Island, and the BL England Power
22 Plant in Cape May County, have already been retired,
23 leaving ratepayers to rely on the national grid due
24 to Governor's EO to build 3,500 MW of wind power by
25 2030.

1 "Response: Hudson Generating, Duck
2 Island, and BL England were all coal plants killed by
3 cheap natural gas, the fuel supported by the
4 construction unions. BL England tried to convert to
5 gas and could not do it economically. These
6 decisions had nothing to do with plans for wind
7 power.

8 "Paul Baldauf (Assistant DEP
9 Commissioner for Air Quality, Energy and
10 Sustainability) at a meeting this February, said New
11 Jersey does not need any more power plants; electric
12 energy demand is flat. New Jersey does not need the
13 North Bergen Liberty Generating plant for its
14 electric power needs.

15 "Statement: Statements were made about
16 gas utilities imposing moratoriums on new gas
17 services due to the lack of sufficient natural gas
18 pipeline in the region and consumers paying for
19 higher priced oil and imported liquefied natural gas.

20 "Response: The Meadowlands power plant
21 has absolutely nothing to do with supplying gas to
22 residents and businesses. This is simply a red
23 herring.

24 "We do not believe any utility in
25 New Jersey has stated that it is forced to pay for

1 higher priced oil and imported LNG because of
2 pipeline shortages. In fact, PSE&G just brought a
3 new gas power plant online, Sewaren 7, in Woodbridge
4 in 2018 to replace coal peaker plants.

5 END OF STATEMENT]

6 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Thank you.

7 Cassandra Worthington.

8 MS. WORTHINGTON: Thank you,
9 Freeholders.

10 My name is Cassandra Worthington.

11 Dear Freeholders:

12 You sought office in order to protect
13 the health and best interest of Bergen County
14 residents. Likewise, the Bergen County Utilities
15 Authority or BCUA has committed to serve Bergen
16 County residents by preventing pollution and
17 protecting our natural resources.

18 I would like to read the first line in
19 the BCUA's mission. The BCUA's mission is to provide
20 wastewater treatment and solid waste water management
21 services for the citizens of Bergen County.

22 Since 2017, the BCUA had been
23 corresponding with North Bergen Liberty Generating
24 about a shared partnership for the pipeline that will
25 be built to provide wastewater to cool down the

1 proposed power plant.

2 The BCUA accepted and agreed to a
3 letter of intent to supply treated effluent
4 wastewater or grey water to NBLG.

5 The proposal to provide these services
6 to a commercial entity in Hudson County is
7 inconsistent with the Bergen County Utilities
8 Authority's mission.

9 Moreover, the majority of this
10 wastewater would evaporate during the cooling
11 process, which could release toxic chemicals like
12 algicides, fungicides and anti-corrosives into our
13 air and surrounding water sources.

14 How much of this wastewater will go
15 into the air?

16 Of the 7 million gallons that will be
17 provided from the BCUA to the power plant, only
18 2 million will be returned to Little Ferry to be
19 processed again; 7 million to 2 million.

20 Other NBLG documents project even more
21 wastewater. It could be even more than 8.6 million
22 gallons a day.

23 On March 6th, you said the power plant
24 is not within Bergen County's jurisdiction.

25 I hope that as you learn about the air

1 pollution that will affect Bergen County residents
2 and the Bergen County money that is being exchanged
3 for work on this pipeline to cool down the power
4 plant, you will see that there is a lot you can do
5 within your jurisdiction.

6 For instance, on September 20th, 2018,
7 the BCUA requested work from the power plant company
8 for the force main project, for a cost of \$266,000.

9 This money for the initial consulting
10 is just a fraction of the cost of the pipe that will
11 go from Little Ferry to the power plant.

12 In addition to the BCUA's commitment to
13 share costs in construction of the sewer main, the
14 BCUA is also discounting wastewater to cool down the
15 power plant. All of this for energy that will go to
16 New York City and pollute Bergen County.

17 We urge you to do what's right for the
18 county, and pass a resolution to oppose the power
19 plant.

20 Thank you.

21 [APPLAUSE]

22 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Ted Glick.

23 MR. GLICK: Good evening.

24 As I said a couple weeks ago, I'm the
25 president of 350 New Jersey.

1 I don't think I mentioned that I'm also
2 the coordinator of a group called "Roseland Against
3 the Compressor Station" which has been working in
4 Essex County since 2013, first to prevent --
5 unfortunately we couldn't do that -- to prevent a gas
6 compressor station from being built. Now, for the
7 last year and a half, we have been working to prevent
8 the more than doubling of the capacity of this gas
9 compressor station in Roseland, which has
10 similarities to a power plant in that there's a lot
11 of pollution that goes into the air and leakage.
12 With the compressor stations, there's added risk of
13 fire and explosion.

14 The reason I'm raising that is that
15 last week there was a very successful press
16 conference right next to this existing compressor
17 station at the Essex County Environmental Center.
18 And the County Executive, Joe DiVincenzo, as well as
19 three of the Freeholders spoke out at that press
20 conference, calling upon the state DEP to prevent
21 this expansion of this compressor station.

22 So, to me, those were good models for
23 what County Executives and Freeholders should do. So
24 I would urge you to consider perhaps emulating on
25 what those Freeholders did and take action against

1 this proposed power plant.

2 I also do want to reference what was
3 mentioned earlier, the young people who last Friday,
4 all over the world, 125 countries, over 2,000
5 specific actions, I saw them in Morristown, some of
6 them maybe 8 or 9-years-old, demonstrated calling for
7 adults to take the climate crisis seriously and to
8 act as if it's an emergency, because it is. That's
9 what the scientists are saying, that's what the
10 government report of our own federal government
11 talked about, the impacts. The U.S. military has
12 done analyses of what a security threat climate
13 change is.

14 Take a stand. Do what's right. Do
15 what I'm sure for many of you, I hope all of you,
16 your conscience tells you what's the right thing to
17 do, and please do it soon. The sooner you take
18 action, the sooner this project will be defeated, and
19 that's a good thing for Bergen County and our
20 threatened climate.

21 Thank you.

22 [APPLAUSE]

23 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Hannah Kohn.

24 I'm sorry. Hannah, what town are you
25 from?

1 MS. KOHN: I'm from Madison, but I was
2 here last week representing my grandmother from
3 Edgewater.

4 Good evening, Bergen County Freeholders
5 and thank you for having us here tonight.

6 As I just mentioned, I came to you last
7 meeting on behalf of my grandmother who lives in
8 Edgewater in opposition to the Meadowlands power
9 plant and in support of the resolution opposing that
10 plant.

11 I left absolutely appalled at the
12 sexist verbal harassment I and many other women
13 received from a number of people present at that
14 meeting. Particularly, while I was standing at the
15 back of the room, I heard women being sexually
16 objectified and demeaned. It frightened me and it
17 also made me angry.

18 The discursive violence of those
19 comments made me think about the ways women
20 specifically will be affected by the power plant, if
21 it's built. Unfortunately, issues that women face
22 specifically often go under the radar in our society.
23 It's important for me to highlight some of them.

24 There are many angles on that topic to
25 explore, but tonight I'm going to focus on just one,

1 women's reproductive health.

2 The pollutants from this plant do not
3 acknowledge county boundaries. Bergen County's
4 proximity to Hudson County will mean that, without a
5 doubt, pollutants will affect women in your
6 constituency too.

7 There won't be enough time for me to go
8 into all the detail this topic deserves, so I hope
9 you'll accept these studies that I printed out, which
10 explain all of what I'm act to say in far more
11 detail.

12 North Bergen Liberty Generating
13 submitted their estimates of the emissions the power
14 plant will put into our atmosphere to the New Jersey
15 Department of Environmental Protection. Many of the
16 pollutants they cite to specific violence to women's
17 reproductive systems.

18 The power plant is expected to emit
19 185.6 tons of particulate matter, equal to or less
20 than 2.5 micrometers in diameter a year. But
21 research shows that prenatal exposure to this
22 particulate matter increases the likelihood of
23 preterm birth and accounts for an estimated
24 3.32 percent of preterm birth nationally, putting
25 both infants and mothers at risk.

1 In this way, this pollutant will do
2 violence to the reproductive health of women in
3 Bergen County.

4 The power plant is expected to emit
5 305.3 tons of nitrogen-based emissions, 52.4 tons of
6 sulfur dioxide, and 423.3 tons of carbon monoxide
7 each year.

8 But research, including a study
9 analyzing data from New Jersey specifically,
10 demonstrates that higher levels of these pollutants
11 significantly increase the odds of stillbirth. In
12 this way, these pollutants will do violence to the
13 reproductive health of women in Bergen County.

14 In addition to increasing the odds of
15 stillbirth, nitrogen oxide has been shown --

16 MR. FLORIO: Three minutes, Ms. Kohn.

17 MS. KOHN: Thank you. And I hope
18 you'll accept both my notes and the studies that I
19 brought with me.

20 MR. FLORIO: Your notes will be put in
21 the record in their entirety.

22 If you leave your additional materials
23 to Storm, to your left, they'll be given to the
24 Freeholders after the meeting.

25 MS. KOHN: Thank you very much.

1 [APPLAUSE]

2 [FOLLOWING IS THE REMAINDER OF MS.

3 KOHN'S STATEMENT:

4 "In addition to increasing the odds of
5 stillbirth, nitrogen oxide has been shown to
6 contribute to numerous other reproductive health
7 issues, such as fertility rates and
8 cardiovascular-related birth defects. In this way,
9 these pollutants will do violence to the reproductive
10 health of women in Bergen County.

11 "The power plant is expected to emit
12 190.8 tons of particulate matter equal to or less
13 than 10 micrometers in diameter a year. But research
14 shows that even brief exposure to high levels of this
15 matter increase the likelihood of miscarriage. In
16 this way, this pollutant will do violence to the
17 reproductive health of women in Bergen County.

18 "U.S. Census data shows that 51.5
19 percent of Bergen County residents are women. Many
20 of them are of reproductive ages. This power plant
21 will harm them, and you have the power to oppose it.
22 I urge you to do what's right for over half your
23 constituency and put the resolution opposing the
24 power plant to a vote at your next meeting.

25 "Thank you."

1 [END OF STATEMENT]

2 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Laurie Ludmer.

3 MS. LUDMER: Hi.

4 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Laurie, what town
5 are you from? I'm sorry.

6 MS. LUDMER: Teaneck.

7 So, my name is Laurie Ludmer. I'm from
8 Teaneck. I am affiliated with the Food & Water Watch
9 and other various organizations, but my main
10 affiliation is as a human being, as a woman, as a
11 mother, and a grandmother, and a community member.

12 I'm not a scientist, but I am a
13 citizen, and I know that the Freeholders, that your
14 job and your mission is to serve and protect, and
15 that's why I'm standing here, because I feel very
16 strongly that the people of Bergen County, as well as
17 Hudson County, as well as any people, old ladies,
18 young ladies, children, babies, have the right to be
19 protected, have the right to have decent health,
20 which is hard enough in 2019, with everything else
21 that goes on, but that this proposed Meadowlands gas
22 plant would harm people.

23 And, you know, I'm not going to give
24 you the statistics, you've heard them already. I'm
25 not going to give you the arguments, you've heard

1 them already.

2 What I'm going to say is for you to
3 have courage. As representatives, that's also your
4 mission, to stand up and have courage to serve and
5 protect not just some of the people, not just some
6 unions, and everybody is entitled to have a decent
7 job, to serve and protect the people of the county.

8 Now, before I came here, I was looking
9 up a number of quotes, and I was looking up quotes
10 about courage, because that's what I'm asking you to
11 have, as representatives, to have courage, but I was
12 also looking up, and, no offense, "stupidity."

13 This is what Stephen Hawking said.

14 "We are in danger of destroying
15 ourselves by our greed and stupidity. We cannot
16 remain looking inwards at ourselves on a small and
17 increasingly polluted planet."

18 It's up to you, and, you know, I don't
19 want to feel like I'm beholden, but we all are
20 beholden, and your job is to put the resolution to
21 oppose the power plant, put it on your next agenda.

22 MR. FLORIO: Three minutes, Ms. Ludmer.

23 MS. LUDMER: Thank you.

24 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Thank you.

25 [APPLAUSE]

1 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Karlos Edmonds.

2 MR. EDMONDS: Hi.

3 So, I think you've noticed a theme so
4 far tonight with a number of different people
5 representing far more than can actually be present
6 here tonight, we want the power plant for the
7 Meadowlands to be a resolution against it.

8 I'm coming from Paramus. There was a
9 resolution passed there. That's a model that you
10 could follow. We're asking you to pass this
11 resolution. It's very much within your authority to
12 do so.

13 The organization which I'm specifically
14 from is known as Extinction Rebellion, so I wanted to
15 echo some themes and some things that were already
16 mentioned.

17 This is the Extinction symbol, and it's
18 now very prevalent, because we're undergoing the
19 sixth mass extinction. Unlike the fifth mass
20 extinction, which we all know is the dinosaur mass
21 extinction caused by an astroid, this mass extinction
22 is caused by humans, and a power plant is very much
23 part of the process, especially a fracking gas fueled
24 power plant, that is very much part of the problem.

25 And some voices that aren't here that

1 really need to be heard, and hopefully you are aware
2 of what's happened because it's going to keep
3 happening each Friday and it's going to grow and
4 grow, they will not go extinct, the children are
5 urging you all to take action for their lives. It's
6 nothing short of saving them or choosing to give a
7 genocide to the future generations.

8 I'm looking at all your eyes, and I
9 want you to think about all your nieces and nephews,
10 your grandchildren, and what this means to them, and
11 whether you are fighting for them or passing on a
12 legacy of continuing the crisis that we're now in.

13 So I'm urging you all to feel the
14 reality, it's not a joke. Science is showing that
15 the extinction will include humans, if we fail to act
16 in the next 11 years.

17 So, once again, I just want to
18 reiterate, I urge you to put a resolution to oppose
19 the Meadowlands power plant on your agenda for next
20 meeting.

21 [APPLAUSE]

22 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Nick Lento.

23 MR. LENTO: Nick Lento, Cliffside Park.

24 When I was here last week, one of the
25 Freeholders had asked me: Where does Loretta

1 Weinberg stand on this? How come I haven't heard
2 from her?

3 And I just want to take a few seconds
4 to quote Loretta Weinberg, for whom we all have great
5 respect and admiration. I think she's the best
6 senator in the state Legislature.

7 "New Jersey stands at a crossroads. As
8 a state, we have committed to making our grid
9 100 percent renewable by 2050. We have agreed to
10 reduce our carbon emissions under RGGI.

11 "Earlier this year, we joined the
12 United States Climate Alliance, joining other states
13 in their commitment to abide by the Paris Agreement."

14 The bottom line, where she talks about
15 this: "This power plant is bad for the Meadowlands,
16 and a bad deal for New Jersey. Sen. Weinberg and
17 Assemblyman Johnson are with you: Let's stop this
18 now."

19 She added: "This plant is a boondoggle
20 that will worsen our air quality and pollute the
21 Meadowlands, without providing any power to
22 New Jersey residents. I am glad so many towns," now
23 it's up to 50, "have signed resolutions against this
24 project. There is no reason," no reason, my
25 emphasis, "to build new fossil fuel plants in

1 New Jersey. This plant is a step in the wrong
2 direction."

3 Now, the other page I was going to give
4 you more statistics, but you've heard all the stuff.

5 On the basis of actual facts and
6 numbers and toxicity, it's a case closed. The 3 or
7 400 people actively involved in this movement are
8 canaries in the coal mine. They are people who are
9 highly informed and motivated. No one is paying them
10 to do it, unlike at the last meeting where someone
11 said the environmentalists are spending a billion
12 dollars to have their way.

13 I wish we had a billion dollars to
14 spend, this would be a completely different state and
15 country.

16 Now what I want to say is this. People
17 are appealing to your sense of morality, your common
18 human decency, because you all have families that
19 will be here long after you and I are gone, 20, 30,
20 40, 50 years from now.

21 This plant is like smoking cigarettes.
22 No one cigarette kills anybody, but the cumulative
23 effect of all these toxins in the atmosphere, and
24 this thing is going to be .8 miles away from the
25 existing plant in Ridgefield, that's right on the

1 borderline, the air doesn't care about borders.
2 These are your people. They voted for you. You
3 should care ability them. As far as I'm concerned,
4 the money that Diamond Chemical is putting into this
5 and the money that Mitsubishi, a Japanese company, is
6 putting into this to hire lobbyists or give
7 contributions to use leverage of power in my humble
8 opinion to buy machine politicians who are used to
9 ruling their town like it's their private fiefdom,
10 sorry, the health and safety of millions of people
11 who live in this region is more important than
12 whether or not Nicholas Sacco gets his pet project
13 passed.

14 MR. FLORIO: Three minutes, Mr. Lento.

15 MR. LENTO: And I hate to say it,
16 that's what it boils down to.

17 Thank you very much for your attention.
18 I hope you listen to us and not the rich people.

19 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Matt Smith.

20 MR. SMITH: Thank you.

21 Good evening, Freeholders.

22 My name is Matt Smith. I'm a senior
23 organizer with Food & Water Watch, and, again here on
24 behalf of our nearly 7,000 members here in Bergen
25 County to urge the Freeholders to schedule the

1 resolution against the power plant and pass it at the
2 next public meeting of the Freeholders.

3 I don't want to recycle any points that
4 have already been made, I do just want to thank the
5 Freeholders for responding now to what was quite a
6 hostile environmental at the last public meeting that
7 was full of intimidation, full of fear tactics, and
8 clearly not conducive to a democratic public
9 participation process.

10 So I noticed that there was public
11 safety personnel here in the meeting from the
12 beginning, from the start this evening, so I want to
13 thank the Freeholders for that action.

14 And, yeah, I mean, the only other thing
15 that I want to say this evening is that I too was
16 inspired by the U.S. youth climate strike that
17 happened last Friday that saw millions of students
18 across the world, thousands of which here in the
19 U.S., and many hundred in New Jersey, walk out of
20 their classrooms to protest and call on government at
21 all levels to do everything within their power to
22 prevent runaway climate catastrophe that threatens
23 their future.

24 When we're organizing on this power
25 plant, we're talking to parents at the door and we're

1 talking to students and young people.

2 It's clear, right, and there is no
3 debate, this is a bad idea. It would harm their
4 health. It jeopardizes and threatens their very
5 future, and so it's very clear. I think that's
6 resembled by the 49 towns that have now passed
7 resolutions against the project and the five
8 legislators who have come out against it. But we
9 realize that there are technical issues to be
10 addressed, and so we are having a public forum on
11 Thursday evening, that we invite all of our
12 Freeholders to attend. It's at the Ridgefield
13 Community Center at 7:00 p.m. We would love for more
14 of our elected representatives from the county level
15 to join the local and state representatives who will
16 be at that meeting to continue to educate themselves,
17 but also to use their voices, which are very
18 important, in protecting all of the people of Bergen
19 County, but particularly the children who would be
20 impacted first and worst by the Meadowlands power
21 plant.

22 So, again, thank you for your time this
23 evening.

24 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Thank you.

25 FREEHOLDER SULLIVAN: Can you just tell

1 me the name of the company you represent?

2 MR. SMITH: The organization is Food &
3 Water Watch.

4 FREEHOLDER SULLIVAN: So you're paid by
5 them or not?

6 MR. SMITH: Yes.

7 FREEHOLDER SULLIVAN: Okay. Thank you.

8 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: May I have a motion
9 to close the meeting to the public?

10 FREEHOLDER SULLIVAN: So moved.

11 FREEHOLDER VOSS: Second.

12 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: All in favor?

13 (All present Freeholders respond in the
14 affirmative.)

15 FREEHOLDER TANELLI: I just want to say
16 that, I received the email. I want to thank whoever
17 sent the email to us identifying what happened at the
18 last meeting. I'm sure my colleagues share my
19 disappointment. We're up here, we didn't hear a lot
20 of what was going on. When it was brought to our
21 attention, we did have two Sheriff's Officers here at
22 last meeting, and we circulated them back out after
23 we had taken a break and somebody alerted us to it.
24 So I want to thank you for letting us know. We want
25 to leave it open. We've had many, many rooms filled

1 with people to bring their opinions up to us, and
2 we've never had that happen before. We did have two
3 Sheriff's Officers here, it's just we weren't
4 notified until midway through.

5 Thank you, Chairwoman.

6 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Thank you.

7 ACTING COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR NEALS:
8 Chairwoman, just with regard to the comments that
9 were made as to the Bergen County Utilities
10 Authority.

11 Yes, there are appointments that are
12 made at the county level by nomination of the County
13 Executive; however, it is an independent body. I
14 just wanted to make that notation for the record, and
15 not making any judgment call one way or another as to
16 utilities' responsibilities, but just the fact that
17 it is an independent agency.

18 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Thank you.

19 PUBLIC HEARING - 2019 GREEN ACRES GRANT

20 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: As advertised, the
21 Division of Open Space will make a presentation as
22 part of the public hearing during tonight's meeting
23 of the Board of Chosen Freeholders. The purpose of
24 which, I will let the Division of Open Space Director
25 Adam Strobel explain when the floor is yielded to

1 him.

2 May I have a motion to recess for the
3 time period that the Open Space Public Hearing is in
4 effect, after which we will return to the Freeholder
5 agenda?

6 FREEHOLDER SULLIVAN: So moved.

7 FREEHOLDER TANELLI: Second.

8 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: All in favor?

9 (All present Freeholders respond in the
10 affirmative.)

11 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Opposed?

12 (No response.)

13 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: At this point in
14 time, I recognize Open Space Director Adam Strobel,
15 who shall make a presentation regarding these grant
16 applications.

17 MR. STROBEL: Okay. Good evening.

18 Thank you for the introduction.

19 Again, for background, my name is Adam
20 Strobel. I am with the Division of Open Space - Land
21 Management for the Department of Parks. We're here
22 today before you to help conduct a public hearing on
23 a grant application the Department of Parks will be
24 submitting to the DEP's Green Acres.

25 Earlier this year, Green Acres provided

1 opportunity for grants for park improvements and land
2 acquisitions.

3 What we have put together for tonight
4 and for our application is a grant to help us restore
5 a very popular spot along the Saddle River County
6 Park known as the Wild Duck Pond in Ridgewood.

7 It is a park area that is used heavily.

8 This park area was one of the first
9 park areas acquired by the county park system. The
10 county park system was created in 1947. This land
11 was acquired by the park commission at the time in
12 1951, because of the opportunity to create a pond for
13 public enjoyment. So it was sought for activities
14 during the summer, not only for people to come enjoy
15 to be at the water's edge and having walking
16 opportunities and other activities, but it also was a
17 place for habitat for wild birds, ducks in particular
18 to come. And, in the wintertime, it was turned into
19 an ice skating rink. So it was a multifunctional
20 type of activity.

21 Those ice skating activities were
22 unique in that it was probably the first park area
23 that provided nighttime ice skating. It was the
24 first opportunity that was provided by the county
25 parks commission at the time.

1 The Wild Duck Pond has been in place
2 since 1951 and even before. The pond is fed by the
3 Saddle River, and, over time, there were various
4 improvements that have been made to make sure that
5 the water is naturally fed into the pond.

6 There have been challenges over the
7 course of time where there are sometimes there have
8 been disconnects with the water coming to it. Pipes
9 and other mechanical means have been used to provide
10 water to that, but at times the park pond has not
11 been filled.

12 This past season, the pond was filled,
13 and that was to the benefit because of the amount of
14 precipitation that there was.

15 There's periods of time in which there
16 is not, and you don't see the best optimal
17 conditions.

18 So what the Parks Department sought was
19 to provide expertise that we can provide to help
20 restore this area.

21 We've tapped an environmental
22 restoration firm known as Biohabitats, which the
23 county Parks Department has used recently, asked them
24 to how they can reconfigure the park area to feed the
25 water, to provide some mechanical means as a backup,

1 as a redundant process, and to provide some habitat
2 restoration, provide some new experiences and new
3 opportunities at the lake itself, provide that better
4 quality of environment for water quality versus water
5 flows through here, exits out, and then continues on
6 to the Saddle River, which eventually gets to the
7 Newark Bay. So it's part of the whole water
8 ecosystem.

9 So what I'd like to do at this moment,
10 I have a gentleman from Biohabitats, Michael Spina,
11 who has a couple slides, is going to walk you through
12 some concepts and directions, some visionary things,
13 still not 100 percent exactly what we're doing but
14 the general direction to provide a greater
15 opportunity for this pond to function and to have an
16 ecological way that is beneficial to the community.

17 Thank you.

18 MR. SPINA: Thank you, Freeholders, for
19 the opportunity to present our work.

20 My name is Michael Spina. I'm a
21 landscape architect working for Biohabitats. We're
22 an ecological design, planning and engineering firm
23 focused on restoring the earth and inspiring
24 environmental stewardship.

25 We've been working with Bergen County

1 on this project, as Adam mentioned, with the goal of
2 restoring both ecological function and enhanced
3 public use of this site.

4 So, Wild Duck Pond in its current state
5 is a very special place where natural habitats and
6 local recreation converge. And while there are many
7 site amenities, such as the pond itself, there's a
8 trail network, playgrounds and picnic areas that are
9 well used, the ecological habitats are in severe need
10 of restoration, and, in particular, the hydrology of
11 the site has been dramatically altered over time.

12 Just a real quick history of what we
13 know about some of these efforts.

14 In the 1920s, the pond was constructed.
15 And as part of that, a low head dam was installed in
16 the Saddle River to raise the local surface water
17 levels and create a surface connection from the
18 Saddle River to the pond, which was used at that time
19 as an ice pond.

20 Sometime later than that, that we don't
21 quite know, that dam was removed. The remnants of a
22 dam left a smaller riffle within the river, and that
23 reduced the level of the Saddle River, and as well
24 the surface connection from the river to the pond was
25 also removed.

1 In the 1990s, some pipes and pumps were
2 installed to actually pump water from the Saddle
3 River down into the pond.

4 However, the installation of that
5 system was situated such that there was regularly
6 clogging and debris in the side-channel and getting
7 hung up on the intakes.

8 And so, in 2005, the river intake
9 structure was relocated below the riffle, the former
10 remnant of the Lodi dam. And, as such, the water
11 levels were even low and there was still an issue, a
12 surface connection or pipe connection to the pond
13 itself.

14 And so in 2018, the county took some
15 measures to lower and modify the intake structure in
16 an attempt to maintain the former water elevations
17 within the pond.

18 And so just real quick, here's a map
19 from 1902 showing there's no pond at the current Wild
20 Duck Pond park site, the but, in 1926, we can see
21 that there is a pond there.

22 So Bergen County is working with
23 Biohabitats as well as the engineering firm WSP,
24 which is formerly Louis Berger, to perform some
25 hydrological modeling, with the condition the n to

1 recommend a plan to restore conditions at the pond.

2 So when we look at this kind of park
3 situation, we don't want to just only look at the
4 park, but also consider the fact that it's part of a
5 much larger system.

6 Here, Wild Duck Pond is very unique in
7 its position within the larger Saddle River County
8 Park system. This is a really valuable corridor for
9 the Saddle River pathway as well as a corridor for
10 habitat that extends through Bergen County.

11 Similarly, we can see Wild Duck Pond
12 park in its location along Saddle River. The Saddle
13 River starts, its headwaters originate in New York
14 State, and as they run southward that toward Bergen
15 County, the river cuts through a series of
16 residential neighborhoods, commercial areas,
17 cemeteries, small ponds and parks. After the Wild
18 Duck Pond area, the river feeds into the Passaic
19 River and eventually into Newark Bay.

20 There is deciduous wetlands on this
21 site, which were delineated by New Jersey DEP in
22 2012. The majority of the site falls within the
23 100-year floodplain, adding to its significance
24 locally and encouraging the value of a robust
25 ecosystem in this area.

1 So the alterations to the site over
2 time resulted in changes to the hydrology of the
3 site.

4 The loss of a surface level water
5 connection and the puncturing of the pond's clay
6 lining -- or its unclear that it's clay, but there
7 was a lining, and that had been punctured, which
8 lowered the overall pond water surface level and has
9 resulted in a significant reduction in overflow
10 events that would naturally cycle the waters through
11 the pond and back into the Saddle River.

12 The pond also currently experiences
13 these nuisance algae blooms that you can see in the
14 photos. Historically, the water surface elevations
15 reduce the ecological value within the pond
16 aesthetic. The presence of the excessive nutrients
17 are assumed to be primary cause of algae blooms,
18 while low surface water elevations limit the flushing
19 of water through the pond back into the Saddle River.

20 Under the existing conditions,
21 nutrients introduced to the pond accumulate within
22 the pond without treatment or flushing.

23 But this park also contains a variety
24 of habitats, some of which occur naturally, some have
25 been constructed, and some have integrated over time,

1 but we feel there are some valuable natural resources
2 at this site which can be taken advantage of.

3 There's also been some interest from
4 other groups. Rutgers University Center for Urban
5 Environmental Sustainability had done a planning
6 study, they had looked at a number of parks
7 throughout Bergen County, and looking at the existing
8 conditions and recommending some actions as well for
9 these parks, thinking about the network of the park
10 system as a holistic system.

11 So we've looked at all of this work and
12 synthesized these into a few design principles that
13 we're using as we look to plan further improvements
14 to this park. These are to enhance existing open
15 water and wetland areas, improve pond water quality
16 through natural processes, increase opportunities for
17 interactions with nature, encourage biodiversity,
18 conserve existing natural resources, and upgrade
19 existing park amenities.

20 And following these goals, these
21 objectives, we developed this concept plan, which
22 contains both short and long-term phases.

23 The area that's highlighted in the red
24 dashed line is currently being designed, is under
25 design as part of Phase I.

1 And, you know, the focus of the design
2 and Phase I is to mend the former hydrologic input to
3 the pond, repair the pond liner to improve the water
4 levels, and enhance the overall habitat by
5 introducing healthy wetland conditions and native
6 species.

7 The long-term elements include approved
8 vehicular pedestrian circulation, upgraded recreation
9 amenities such as picnic areas, playground, bicycle
10 trail and a boardwalk.

11 For the pond, the proposed design,
12 future improvements to the maintenance practices will
13 limit the introduction of additional nutrients from
14 stormwater sources through a wetlands riffle system
15 proposed within the existing drainage channel.

16 And within the pond, we propose to
17 increase water surface elevations through the
18 installation of a six-inch clay impermeable liner to
19 provide treatment with the pond through creation of
20 wetland shelf area at the pond's edges.

21 The proposed liner will allow for
22 raising the surface water elevations back to the
23 outlet elevation, so that there's a flushing of the
24 pond, so that these nutrients aren't just contained
25 within that pond itself.

1 VICE-CHAIRWOMAN AMOROSO: So the clay
2 liner is for the whole pond?

3 MR. SPINA: Yes.

4 VICE-CHAIRWOMAN AMOROSO: Or just the
5 river?

6 MR. SPINA: No, the clay liner is for
7 the pond, correct.

8 Thank you for clarifying.

9 This is a rendering of the wetlands
10 shelf, which is an approximately 20 to 40-foot wide
11 strip of native freshwater wetland plantings along
12 the edge of the pond that will help establish a more
13 natural nutrient cycle within the pond.

14 There's also the accommodation of a
15 sandy beach that you can see sort of in the
16 background of this rendering that allows continued
17 open water access to residents.

18 For the channel, as I mentioned, we
19 propose to create a series of wetland pools and
20 riffles within that existing drainage channel. This
21 will improve the ecological habitat value of the
22 site, as well as provide treatment of stormwater
23 runoff from the adjacent residential drainage areas,
24 prior to entering Wild Duck Pond.

25 And within the play area, we're

1 recommending, this is part of the long-term concept,
2 I should mention, we've presented here some
3 inspirational images that show an accessible play
4 area that has a nature-based theme.

5 We're also looking at some inspiration
6 for the bike hub area to create more of a destination
7 at that trailhead for the rest of the Saddle River
8 Park system, as well as ideas for environmental
9 education and nature interpretation that can be
10 integrated into the natural areas.

11 So, for the first phase, which is
12 further along in development, we do have a proposed
13 schedule that would have the project completion in
14 the spring of 2020.

15 This does depend on a number of
16 factors. There is some permitting requirements and
17 the design process is still ongoing, so I would just
18 caution to say that this is tentative, but this is
19 what we are looking towards moving forward.

20 I'd like to take any questions that you
21 guys have.

22 VICE-CHAIRWOMAN AMOROSO: So this is a
23 man-made pond?

24 MR. SPINA: Yes.

25 VICE-CHAIRWOMAN AMOROSO: Right?

1 And did you consider whether it's
2 worthwhile to keep it?

3 MR. SPINA: Yes.

4 The pond itself, we found, is actually
5 supporting some ecological habitat, ecological
6 function, and it seems to be a very attractive
7 amenity that draws a lot of people to the park. And
8 for those reasons, we found that it would be valuable
9 to restore and improve the conditions there.

10 VICE-CHAIRWOMAN AMOROSO: How do you
11 keep all of the stuff from accumulating and blocking
12 up the water flow?

13 MR. SPINA: So where that's been a
14 problem in the past is primarily within the Saddle
15 River. And so our improved intake structure will
16 consider that as a main design goal, is presenting
17 that. And then if your concern is also the debris
18 coming from down the channel and falling within the
19 pond itself, we're also simultaneously recommending
20 some maintenance practices.

21 Currently, landscape debris is being
22 dumped in the pond, which is a recommendation we're
23 going to have, and also the wetland system itself,
24 you know, once it is restored, will naturally cycle
25 those nutrients so they will just become part of a

1 robust ecosystem, rather than a problematic nutrient
2 that is overloading the system.

3 VICE-CHAIRWOMAN AMOROSO: So will this
4 maintenance require a lot of man hours?

5 MR. SPINA: No, we believe it will be
6 reduced man hours in the long-term.

7 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Freeholder Tanelli.

8 FREEHOLDER TANELLI: So just to
9 Freeholder Amoroso's point is whether it is
10 worthwhile upgrading the facility or not.

11 Obviously, we talked, when the Parks
12 Committee met. It's also the county has issues with
13 floodwaters, storm waters, this will be definitely
14 enhance the stormwater management in that area
15 because it will give an opportunity for the water,
16 when there's a high rise, it will give the
17 opportunity to accommodate water, correct?

18 MR. STROBEL: Yes.

19 MR. SPINA: That's correct.

20 MR. STROBEL: It continues to provide
21 that, but obviously having better practices and
22 better systems in place that will be able to handle
23 stormwater a lot more effectively than it is
24 currently.

25 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Freeholder Ganz.

1 FREEHOLDER GANZ: Thank you.

2 What do you estimate the annual cost to
3 maintain the duck pond?

4 MR. SPINA: You know, we haven't looked
5 at that very closely at the stage of design where we
6 are at now, but all of our design efforts have been
7 leaning towards reduced maintenance efforts.

8 The system, once it's established, will
9 not require the same level of maintenance as is
10 currently the case.

11 FREEHOLDER GANZ: What is the cost
12 now?

13 MR. STROBEL: Freeholder, I don't know
14 exactly what that number is, but the design to be
15 able to have the water flushing through the system
16 will ensure that the water is moving through and any
17 debris that may be in there, any algae, anything else
18 that's unsightly will be greatly reduced. But it's a
19 great point and a great question, we'll look at that,
20 understanding what's the annual operating cost of
21 what's been proposed versus what is being expended
22 currently, but it's a great point.

23 FREEHOLDER GANZ: Thank you.

24 MR. STROBEL: Thank you.

25 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Freeholder Sullivan.

1 FREEHOLDER SULLIVAN: Just a question.
2 You said that will help floodwaters.
3 Is this being engineered or designed as a retention
4 pond?

5 MR. SPINA: We're increasing capacity
6 within the system, not within the pond, but within
7 the wetland areas to retain water, for sure. Those
8 wetlands will be depressional areas that, in flooding
9 situations, will hold water.

10 It's not the primary goal, but as an
11 answer to your question, there is the capacity there
12 for that within this design.

13 FREEHOLDER SULLIVAN: Would it be piped
14 in or just natural resources?

15 MR. SPINA: Right now there, our
16 design, it will be piped, but it's looking to shorten
17 the pipe. And so the pipe right now currently exists
18 underground, near the pond itself.

19 Our proposal is to relocate that pump
20 to an aboveground station which will, again, reduce
21 maintenance issues and shorten that pipe length and
22 it will flow then through the surface connection so
23 it will improve the water quality as it makes it's
24 way down to the pond.

25 FREEHOLDER SULLIVAN: That's excellent.

1 MR. SPINA: Thanks.

2 FREEHOLDER SULLIVAN: Open space money
3 has been talked about this as well and Green Acres?

4 MR. STROBEL: Yes, Freeholder, you're
5 absolutely right. The Open Space Trust Fund has set
6 aside money for the property. We're looking for
7 Green Acres dollars to supplement those dollars, as
8 the County Executive talk about in his budget
9 presentation today, to provide any opportunity to
10 supplement the county tax dollars in the form of a
11 grant to help us offset those costs.

12 FREEHOLDER SULLIVAN: Thank you.

13 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Thank you so much
14 for your presentations. I'm really glad that we're
15 addressing this now, because that park, I know it
16 hasn't been looking too good these days, and I know
17 it's a major hub, especially for bike riders,
18 especially to connect to the Saddle River and the
19 trails, so I'm very happy. Thank you so much.

20 MR. STROBEL: Thank you.

21 If I may just add. Part of the
22 process, part of the public hearing is to take public
23 comments. If I may ask indulgence, if you could ask
24 for public comments.

25 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Yes, I will.

1 MR. STROBEL: We'll try to answer any
2 of those that are presented.

3 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: It is now time to
4 hear from the public. The Green Acres public hearing
5 is now open with a five-minute time limit for
6 individuals to speak about tonight's Green Acres
7 grant applications at this time.

8 The Board Attorney will keep the time.
9 When the time of the speaker expires, the timekeeper
10 will announce the time has expired.

11 Please fill out the slip of paper with
12 your name and address and which of the applications
13 you wish to speak on.

14 MR. FLORIO: Miss.

15 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: You can just come
16 up.

17 MR. FLORIO: Say your name and your.

18 MS. MURPHY: Hi.

19 Carinne Murphy, and my address, 226
20 Doxey Drive, Park Ridge, New Jersey.

21 I just had a question.

22 We have several known very recent
23 contaminated sites in other local towns, including
24 Upper Saddle River, and I just want to know if the
25 Saddle River waterways have been affected by that

1 particular contamination in Upper Saddle River?

2 MR. STROBEL: I would just answer I do
3 not know any information about that or any
4 connection. The Parks Department has not received
5 any indication that there's any contamination in any
6 of the park areas.

7 MR. SPINA: I can say too, we've done
8 some preliminary analyses and review and have not
9 come across any known issue affecting the Saddle
10 River water quality known to us.

11 MS. MURPHY: Thank you.

12 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Thank you.

13 MR. LENTO: Nick Lento, Cliffside Park,
14 New Jersey.

15 I live in Cliffside Park, but I've
16 visited this park many, many times over the years. I
17 had a good friend in Ridgewood, who I would, over
18 like maybe 10, 15-year period go up and visit with.
19 He just lived a few blocks from one of the entrances
20 to the park, and I would spend hours walking and
21 talking, this guy was skateboarding. And I can tell
22 you that when the weather is even cold and not nice,
23 there are people there. And when the weather is
24 nice, there are thousands of people of all ages who
25 enjoy that park. So it's not just a matter of

9	Thank you.
---	------------

11 FREEHOLDER SULLIVAN: It's good for the
12 environment.

15 FREEHOLDER SULLIVAN: Thanks for
16 staying too, Mr. Lento. We appreciate it.

19	(No response.)
----	----------------

22 FREEHOLDER SULLIVAN: So moved.

24 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: All in favor?

25 (All present Freeholders respond in the

1 affirmative.)

2 RESOLUTIONS OF CONSENT

3 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Will the Clerk read
4 the resolutions on the Consent Agenda.

5 MS. RODRIGUEZ: Resolutions of Consent
6 are: #233-19 through #297-19.

7 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: May I have a motion
8 to accept the resolutions on the Consent Agenda as
9 read by the Clerk?

10 FREEHOLDER GANZ: Move the Consent
11 Agenda.

12 VICE-CHAIRWOMAN AMOROSO: Second.

13 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: All in favor?

14 (All present Freeholders respond in the
15 affirmative.)

16 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Opposed?

17 (No response.)

18 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Roll call, please.

19 (At this point in the proceeding roll
20 call is taken and the Resolutions on the Consent
21 Agenda are passed by a vote of six in favor, with
22 Freeholder Silna Zur absent.)

23 MS. RODRIGUEZ: With six ayes, the
24 Consent Agenda passes.

25 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Are there any

1 resolutions Nonconsent, pulled or tabled?

2 If so, will the Clerk please read them.

3 MS. RODRIGUEZ: There are none.

4 ORDINANCES

5 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: We will now go on to
6 our ordinances for First Reading and Introduction,
7 Ordinances 19-07 and 19-08.

8 Will the Clerk read our first
9 ordinance, 19-07, by title only.

10 MS. RODRIGUEZ: 19-07 is a:

11 "BOND ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR VARIOUS
12 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS OF THE BERGEN COUNTY COMMUNITY
13 COLLEGE IN AND BY THE COUNTY OF BERGEN, APPROPRIATING
14 THE AGGREGATE AMOUNT OF \$8,100,000 THEREFOR AND
15 AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$8,100,000 BONDS OR NOTES
16 OF THE COUNTY ENTITLED TO THE BENEFITS OF CHAPTER 12
17 OF THE COUNTY COLLEGE BOND ACT TO FINANCE THE COST
18 THEREOF."

19 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: May I have a motion
20 to introduce Ordinance 19-07 as read by the Clerk?

21 FREEHOLDER GANZ: So moved.

22 FREEHOLDER SULLIVAN: Second.

23 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: All in favor?

24 (All present Freeholders respond in the
25 affirmative.)

1 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Roll call, please.

2 (At this point in the proceeding roll
3 call is taken and the First Reading and Introduction
4 of Ordinance 19-07 is passed by a vote of six in
5 favor, with Freeholder Silna Zur absent.)

6 MS. RODRIGUEZ: With six ayes, 19-07
7 passes First Reading.

8 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Will the Clerk read
9 our next ordinance, Ordinance 19-08, by title only.

10 MS. RODRIGUEZ: 19-08 is a:

11 "BOND ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR ADAPTIVE
12 SIGNAL SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS FOR THE COUNTY OF BERGEN,
13 APPROPRIATING THE AGGREGATE AMOUNT OF \$3,250,000
14 THEREFOR, INCLUDING A GRANT IN THE AMOUNT OF
15 \$3,045,000 EXPECTED TO BE RECEIVED FROM THE STATE
16 DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION, AND AUTHORIZING THE
17 ISSUANCE OF \$195,000 BONDS OR NOTES OF THE COUNTY TO
18 FINANCE PART OF THE COST THEREOF."

19 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: May I have a motion
20 to introduce Ordinance 19-08 as read by the Clerk?

21 FREEHOLDER TANELLI: So moved.

22 FREEHOLDER SULLIVAN: Second.

23 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: All in favor?

24 (All present Freeholders respond in the
25 affirmative.)

1 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Opposed?

2 (No response.)

3 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Roll call, please.

4 (At this point in the proceeding roll
5 call is taken and the First Reading and Introduction
6 of Ordinance 19-08 is passed by a vote of six in
7 favor, with Freeholder Silna Zur absent.)

8 MS. RODRIGUEZ: With six ayes, 19-08
9 does pass First Reading.

10 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: We will now go on to
11 our ordinances for Second Reading and Adoption,
12 Ordinances 19-03, 19-04, and 19-05.

13 Will the Clerk read Ordinance 19-03 by
14 title only.

15 MS. RODRIGUEZ: Ordinance 19-03 is a:

16 "BOND ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR VARIOUS
17 ROADWAY IMPROVEMENTS THROUGHOUT THE COUNTY OF BERGEN,
18 APPROPRIATING THE AGGREGATE AMOUNT OF \$1,000,000
19 THEREFOR AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$952,000
20 BONDS OR NOTES OF THE COUNTY TO FINANCE PART OF THE
21 COST THEREOF."

22 The Proof of Publication of the
23 Ordinance Notice of Public Hearing was published in
24 accordance with the law and is on file in my office.

25 A copy of the Notice of Hearing and

1 Ordinance No. 19-03 was duly posted pursuant to
2 N.J.S.A. 40A:2-17 on Friday, March 1st, 2019.

3 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: May I have a motion
4 to open the hearing on Ordinance 19-03 to the public?

5 FREEHOLDER GANZ: So moved.

6 VICE-CHAIRWOMAN AMOROSO: Second.

7 FREEHOLDER SULLIVAN: Second.

8 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: All in favor?

9 (All present Freeholders respond in the
10 affirmative.)

11 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Opposed?

12 (No response.)

13 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: The public hearing
14 is open, with a five-minute time limit in effect, to
15 speak about Ordinance 19-03 only at this time.

16 The Board Attorney will keep the time.

17 There's nobody here.

18 May I have a motion to close the public
19 hearing on Ordinance 19-03?

20 FREEHOLDER VOSS: So moved.

21 VICE-CHAIRWOMAN AMOROSO: Second.

22 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: All in favor?

23 (All present Freeholders respond in the
24 affirmative.)

25 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Opposed?

1 (No response.)

2 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Is there any board
3 discussion on Ordinance 19-03?

4 (No response.)

5 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: May I have a motion
6 to adopt Ordinance 19-03 as read by the Clerk?

7 FREEHOLDER GANZ: So moved.

8 FREEHOLDER SULLIVAN: Second.

9 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: All in favor?

10 (All present Freeholders respond in the
11 affirmative.)

12 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Opposed?

13 (No response.)

14 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Roll call, please.

15 (At this point in the proceeding roll
16 call is taken and the Second Reading and Adoption of
17 Ordinance 19-03 is passed by a vote of six in favor,
18 with Freeholder Silna Zur absent.)

19 MS. RODRIGUEZ: With six ayes, 19-03 is
20 adopted and passes Second Reading.

21 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Will the Clerk read
22 Ordinance 19-04 by title only.

23 MS. RODRIGUEZ: Ordinance 19-04 is a:

24 "BOND ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTIONS 3 AND
25 6 OF BOND ORDINANCE NO. 16-18 OF THE COUNTY OF BERGEN

1 FINALLY ADOPTED ON SEPTEMBER 7, 2016 IN ORDER TO
2 REVISE THE PROJECT DESCRIPTION REFERRED TO THEREIN."

3 The Proof of Publication of Notice of
4 Public Hearing was published in accordance with the
5 law and is on file in my office.

6 A copy of the Notice of Hearing and
7 Ordinance No. 19-04 was duly posted, pursuant to
8 N.J.S.A. 40A:2-17 on Friday, March 1, 2019.

9 FREEHOLDER GANZ: So moved.

10 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: May I have a motion
11 to open the hearing on Ordinance 19-04 to the public?

12 FREEHOLDER SULLIVAN: So moved.

13 FREEHOLDER VOSS: Second.

14 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: All in favor?

15 (All present Freeholders respond in the
16 affirmative.)

17 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Opposed?

18 (No response.)

19 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: The public hearing
20 is open, with a five-minute time limit in effect, to
21 speak on Ordinance 19-04 only at this time.

22 The Board Attorney will keep the time.

23 May I have a motion to close the public
24 hearing?

25 FREEHOLDER SULLIVAN: Seeing no one, I

1 make a motion to close.

2 FREEHOLDER VOSS: Second.

3 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: All in favor?

4 (All present Freeholders respond in the
5 affirmative.)

6 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Opposed?

7 (No response.)

8 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Is there any Board
9 discussion on Ordinance 19-04?

10 (No response.)

11 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: May I have a motion
12 to adopt Ordinance 19-04 as read by the Clerk?

13 FREEHOLDER GANZ: So moved.

14 FREEHOLDER TANELLI: Second.

15 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: All in favor?

16 (All present Freeholders respond in the
17 affirmative.)

18 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Opposed?

19 (No response.)

20 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Roll call, please.

21 (At this point in the proceeding roll
22 call is taken and the Second Reading and Adoption of
23 Ordinance 19-04 is passed by a vote of six in favor,
24 with Freeholder Silna Zur absent.)

25 MS. RODRIGUEZ: With six ayes, 19-04 is

1 adopted and passes Second Reading.

2 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Will the Clerk read
3 Ordinance 19-05 by title only.

4 MS. RODRIGUEZ: Ordinance 19-05 is a:
5 "BOND ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE
6 ACQUISITION OF 101-103 HUDSON STREET IN THE CITY OF
7 HACKENSACK AND VARIOUS CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS THERETO
8 BY THE COUNTY OF BERGEN, APPROPRIATING THE AGGREGATE
9 AMOUNT OF \$2,200,000 THEREFOR AND AUTHORIZING THE
10 ISSUANCE OF \$2,095,000 BONDS OR NOTES OF THE COUNTY
11 TO FINANCE PART OF THE COST THEREOF."

12 The Proof of Publication and the
13 Ordinance Notice of Public Hearing was published in
14 accordance the law and is on file in my office.

15 A copy of the Notice of Hearing and
16 Ordinance No. 19-05 was duly posted, pursuant
17 N.J.S.A. 40A:2-17, on Tuesday, March 12, 2019.

18 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: May I have a motion
19 to open the hearing on Ordinance 19-05 to the public?

20 FREEHOLDER VOSS: So moved.

21 FREEHOLDER SULLIVAN: Second.

22 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: All in favor?

23 (All present Freeholders respond in the
24 affirmative.)

25 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Opposed?

1 (No response.)

2 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: The public hearing
3 is open, with a five-minute time limit in effect, to
4 speak about Ordinance 19-05 only at this time.

5 The Board Attorney will keep the time.

6 May I have a motion to close the public
7 hearing on this ordinance?

8 FREEHOLDER SULLIVAN: Seeing nobody, I
9 make a motion to close.

10 FREEHOLDER VOSS: Second.

11 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: All in favor?

12 (All present Freeholders respond in the
13 affirmative.)

14 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Opposed?

15 (No response.)

16 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Is there any board
17 discussion on Ordinance 19-05?

18 VICE-CHAIRWOMAN AMOROSO: Chairwoman, I
19 just want to point out that this is part of Bergen
20 County's practice of looking at our leases and seeing
21 whether we could save money by buying the property
22 outright, and it's a good thing.

23 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: It really is, and
24 we're always looking to see where we can cut our
25 costs, and especially in a building that serves our

1 seniors.

2 VICE-CHAIRWOMAN AMOROSO: We love that,
3 yes.

4 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Thank you.
5 May I have a motion to adopt Ordinance
6 19-05?

7 FREEHOLDER SULLIVAN: So moved.

8 FREEHOLDER GANZ: So moved.

9 FREEHOLDER VOSS: Second.

10 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: All in favor?

11 (All present Freeholders respond in the
12 affirmative.)

13 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Opposed?

14 (No response.)

15 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Roll call, please.

16 (At this point in the proceeding roll
17 call is taken and the Second Reading and Adoption of
18 Ordinance 19-05 is passed by a vote of six in favor,
19 with Freeholder Silna Zur absent.)

20 MS. RODRIGUEZ: With six ayes, 19-05 is
21 adopted and passes Second Reading.

22 COMMITTEE REPORTS FROM FREEHOLDERS

23 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: We will now have the
24 Freeholder Committee Reports.

25 Freeholder Voss.

1 FREEHOLDER VOSS: Okay.

2 I am always going around to tell people
3 about the wonderful things that the county does. One
4 of the things that we discussed is the Dream
5 Homeownership. Mary and I attended the program, and
6 there are about 90 people I think at this point in
7 time who are eligible. I think owning a home is
8 about the most wonderful thing that can happen to any
9 family.

10 We also had the Bergen County self-care
11 fair. This was basically a group of people, but the
12 Animal Shelter brought puppies and kittens. And I
13 have to say, from personal experience, that if you
14 want to feel tranquil and unstressed, get yourself a
15 pet, preferably a cat, but dogs are really good too.
16 This was wonderful, and our Animal Shelter does
17 wonderful things.

18 Mary and I actually went up to see --
19 this is Women's Month, and Habitat for Humanity is a
20 fantastic organization. They exist in 70 countries,
21 but here in the United States, because it's Women's
22 Month, the Habitat for Humanity was building four
23 units, two for senior citizens and two for disabled
24 people, and it was all being built by women. It was
25 really wonderful. And, you know, women can do

1 anything, if they set their minds to it.

2 I'm very much involved in education,
3 and we had here the Bergen County Consumer Bowl.
4 This is like Jeopardy. This is great. We protect
5 all of the consumers in our county, and it's
6 wonderful to see young people really understand how
7 to protect and what their rights are. This was
8 really, really a fun afternoon, and I think for the
9 second time in a row, Rutherford, I believe, won the
10 Consumer Bowl. They're going to be doing this every
11 year.

12 All of us, I think, yes, everyone of us
13 participated in Read Across America. This is so much
14 fun to go in and see the children, whether they're
15 preschoolers or all the way up into middle school.
16 You know, reading is probably the most wonderful
17 thing you could ever learn. Whenever I go to a
18 class, I ask: "What's the most important thing you
19 can learn in school?"

20 The answer is "Reading."

21 Reading opens up the world to
22 everybody.

23 Of course, this was sort of Irish
24 heritage month, and all of us participated in
25 parades. We had the parade in Rutherford, we had the

1 parade in Bergenfield, and all kinds of wonderful
2 activities concerning Irish heritage. I've eaten so
3 much corned beef and cabbage, I can't see.

4 But one of the things I also want to
5 say is that we have tremendous veterans services here
6 in the county. One of the things we're very proud of
7 is that we don't have any homeless veterans here in
8 Bergen County.

9 I belong to the Rotary, which is a
10 wonderful organization. On April 12th, we are going
11 to be honoring A.J. Luna, who had helped me many,
12 many times to help veterans. It is being sponsored
13 by my Rotary Club. If anybody is interested, the
14 tickets are \$50, and I have them in my purse. And
15 A.J. is just a terrific young man. And as I said, he
16 has helped so many. I just want to comment for a
17 moment, because we had a Moment of Silence for
18 Dr. Alan Sugarman, who was a wonderful man. He was
19 the Superintendent of Schools in Fort Lee. I worked
20 with him for over 20 years. He did so much for
21 education, so much for our school district, it was at
22 one point one of the top ten schools under his
23 leadership in the state. He passed away a few days
24 ago at the age of 94, and he has left a tremendous
25 legacy, and I just wanted to call attention to the

1 fact that he was a man who contributed much to
2 education, which, of course, is my passion in life.

3 And the other day, Germaine and I were
4 at Fort Lee High School because Gov. Murphy came, and
5 I'm very happy to say that our Governor is restoring
6 funding for schools, and so we had a press
7 conference, and of course Congressman Pascrell was
8 there and County Executive Tedesco was there. It was
9 just a really wonderful thing that we're really
10 getting our priorities straight in making education
11 the forefront of our spending.

12 I believe that's it for now.

13 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Thank you,
14 Freeholder.

15 Freeholder Sullivan.

16 FREEHOLDER SULLIVAN: Thank you.

17 There's no such thing as too much
18 corned beef, Joan, just so you know.

19 I just want to start off saying I was
20 talking about shared services. In the last six
21 weeks, the Freeholder Board has continued its vision
22 to bring savings to the taxpayer as we pass multiple
23 shared services resolutions. For example, the
24 Borough of Ho-Ho-Kus, Borough of Oakland, Borough of
25 Waldwick, and Hackensack Board of Ed each entered

1 into an agreement for vehicle maintenance and repair
2 service, as well as short-term rental of a
3 county-owned street sweeper. Also, the Division of
4 Health Services entered into a shared services
5 agreement for the Employees Assistance Program.
6 These agreements are what keeps our taxes stable
7 without sacrificing quality services to our
8 communities.

9 Some state news. I attended Gov.
10 Murphy's budget address two weeks ago. I'm hopeful
11 that this budget will be a step forward for all of
12 New Jersey.

13 Following up on the address, Gov.
14 Murphy was in Bergen County the next day at the
15 Westmont station in Wood-Ridge to promise his
16 increase in funding for New Jersey Transit, which is
17 so vital to those of us in Bergen County who want to
18 maintain the value of their homes, and I applaud him
19 for that move, the more transportation the better.

20 In county news, I want to commend our
21 County Executive for the State of the County speech a
22 few weeks ago. I look forward to partnering with him
23 to continue to improve the lives of all the residents
24 going forward.

25 On February 15th, I nominated Montvale

1 Special Police Officer Roger Caron for the Russ
2 Berrie "Making a Difference Award" sponsored by
3 Ramapo College.

4 Officer Caron saved the life of a
5 choking student at Pascack Hills High School in April
6 of 2018. I wish him the best of luck, after being
7 selected as a finalist for the award.

8 In Bergen County winter sports, I want
9 to offer congratulations to Don Bosco hockey for
10 winning the New Jersey Nonpublic state title,
11 finished as the No. 1 team in New Jersey.

12 Bergen County wrestling for winning
13 their eighth straight New Jersey Nonpublic state
14 title. Finished as the No. 1 team in New Jersey.

15 North Arlington High School bowling
16 team for capturing the Boys State Championship,
17 obviously Tanelli was not a coach on that team.

18 And with March being Women's History
19 Month some history was made two weeks ago, Teaneck
20 High School's Erin Emery became the first ever female
21 New Jersey high school wrestling state champion.
22 This is the first season of the girls wrestling in
23 state history, and I'm happy to see her bring home
24 the title in Bergen County. It's wonderful to see
25 all our athletes in Bergen County bringing home

1 championships.

2 We talked about the St. Patrick's Day
3 parade we all attended. I was honored to do the
4 closing remarks as the Irish flag raising. That's
5 about it, with the exception of, at our last meeting,
6 I was a little remiss or you probably couldn't hear
7 it with all the people that were here. At the last
8 meeting, on March 6th, with my 25th wedding
9 anniversary, and I want to say Happy Anniversary,
10 belated, to my wife, who puts up with all I do for
11 Bergen County and what we do every single day. All
12 the Freeholders would tell you how much of a
13 commitment it is. Without a supportive wife at home,
14 it wouldn't be possible. So thank you, babe, for
15 25 years. I don't know how you did it.

16 And that concludes my report.

17 Thank you.

18 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Thank you,
19 Freeholder.

20 Freeholder Tanelli.

21 FREEHOLDER TANELLI: Thank you,
22 Chairwoman.

23 I would first like to congratulate
24 Fairleigh Dickinson men's basketball team who won the
25 northeast conference tournament and are actually

1 playing their NCAA game right now with 18 seconds
2 left, and they're winning 80 to 76. So we're pulling
3 that they get through the first round.

4 Many of us attended, if not all of us,
5 numerous parades. I just wanted to congratulate
6 Rutherford for their second annual. It seems to get
7 bigger and bigger. One of the posts I made was it's
8 nice to see one bagpipe group, but they had seven.
9 So it just keeps getting larger and larger. It seems
10 to be the destinations that people are going south
11 down to Belmar.

12 Anyway, also I want to congratulate the
13 Bergen County Film Festival, who we had a gentleman
14 here tonight, they had their gala here at One Bergen
15 County Plaza and then they also had two screenings on
16 Saturday and Sunday in Teaneck. It seems to be
17 really well received in Bergen County. Everyone up
18 here always talks about the arts in the parks and
19 quality of life. It all adds to a better and happier
20 resident of Bergen County.

21 Tonight we received a presentation of
22 the budget from the County Executive. I would just
23 like to thank County Executive Jim Tedesco and the
24 administration for delivering another responsible
25 budget. We all appreciate the open transparent

1 partnership with this Board that he's displayed since
2 he took office. We all look forward to going
3 department-by-department, like we always do, but I'm
4 sure, like the last few years, he's really delivered
5 a trim budget to us.

6 So that concludes my report.

7 Thank you.

8 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Thank you,
9 Freeholder.

10 Freeholder Ganz.

11 FREEHOLDER GANZ: Thank you,
12 Chairwoman.

13 Like many members of the Board, I
14 participated in Read Across America. I went to four
15 different schools in Hackensack, in Cliffside, and it
16 really was a lot of fun. We thought for a while we
17 were going to do it in Spanish and English, but it
18 turned out that not enough children spoke Spanish to
19 do it, and we thus did the entire presentation in
20 English.

21 They called me abuelo, which is a fond
22 endearance for "grandpa."

23 And I have to say, this is the first
24 year that I read as many books, four different
25 classrooms, and it really was a very intense and very

1 nice experience.

2 The budget is going to start in earnest
3 on Monday. We will have 21 separate hearings that
4 are going to take place. The purpose of this is to
5 go through each of the major departments and to see
6 whether it's appropriate to increase, decrease, or to
7 stay the same the recommendations of the County
8 Executive.

9 The County Executive has assured
10 cooperation with this and says that any paperwork
11 that we need or desire to assist us in the process,
12 they are happy to supply them. And he asked, for
13 personal knowledge, if this year, if you are unable
14 to break away from your job or from other
15 responsibilities, you will be able to phone in as
16 part of the budget process. We used this rather
17 successfully last year, and, to the extent that we
18 need to do so, we will accommodate you this year.

19 I'm not going to give the Bergen
20 Wellness presentation tonight, but I will wish
21 everybody a Happy Easter, Happy Passover, and
22 everybody on the board and elsewhere a jolly good
23 night.

24 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Thank you,
25 Freeholder.

1 Freeholder Amoroso.

2 VICE-CHAIRWOMAN AMOROSO: I
3 participated in Read Across America too, with
4 third-grader in Lodi. Unfortunately, I insulted the
5 Cat in the Hat character when I asked if he was Thing
6 One or Thing Two.

7 Oh, dear!

8 Also last week we met the Greek
9 Attorney General, whose name is Seni Demitrio
10 (phonetic), when she came to visit Bergen County
11 Sheriff Anthony Cureton. She was very interested in
12 how we cope with the opioid epidemic, which I guess
13 is a big deal in Greece too.

14 Our hearts go out to those who lost
15 their lives or who were injured in New Zealand last
16 week. Again we have to face the consequences of hate
17 abetted by guns. The world we live in requires us to
18 protect ourselves and our children by being proactive
19 and planning for potential active shooter situations.
20 That's why it I was very proud last week to stand
21 with members of the Prosecutor's Office and other law
22 enforcement and mental health professionals when we
23 released the Bergen County School Safety Task Force
24 Report.

25 This is a report that focuses on best

1 practices all schools can do to reduce the risks of
2 active shooter situations or in active shooter
3 situations. Some of the elements in the report
4 include: Maximizing physical security in school
5 buildings; monitoring mental health red flags among
6 students, very touchy area but something we have to
7 focus on; and the training of all Bergen school
8 personnel from teachers to cafeteria workers to
9 custodians.

10 Now tonight, we approved Resolution
11 #267, to provide \$162,500 for the Live Safe
12 application for students and parents in all of our
13 schools in Bergen County.

14 This app, which can easily be
15 downloaded, allows both students and parents to
16 report anonymously other students making threats or a
17 bullying instance, and it will all be done
18 anonymously. We want all schools in Bergen to
19 participate in this application and also to send
20 their personnel for the Prosecutor's three free
21 trainings. It's very important, and everybody should
22 reach out to the Prosecutor, get the link for the
23 report, and work with us to minimize the problem or
24 the potential for active shooter situations.

25 Thank you.

1 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Thank you,
2 Freeholder.

3 I know we all had several events.

4 Right here at the county, we celebrated
5 a Lunar New Year we had to postpone due to inclement
6 weather, so we celebrated in March. It's better
7 late. It was a wonderful time. We had great
8 speakers. We honored several people in the Asian
9 community here in Bergen County, and we had a
10 wonderful performance and, of course, delicious food,
11 as usual.

12 I also participated in Read Across
13 America. I actually went to Garfield for Head Start,
14 which were four-year-olds, who were absolutely
15 adorable. They were so cute, they had made their own
16 Cat in the Hat hats, which were adorable. I took a
17 picture with them.

18 I also had the honor to speak at Bergen
19 Community College when they kicked off Women's Month
20 in March. I was the speaker to kick it off. It was
21 about women at work, so they were honoring a lot of
22 women that have participated throughout the years in
23 their work in regard to even their professors, a lot
24 of students, and there were bringing in a lot of
25 different women throughout the county and throughout

1 the state to speak. So I was very honored to be part
2 of that.

3 I also attended CASA, which is the
4 Court Appointed Special Advocates for children. They
5 gave out three awards, they call it the "Angel"
6 awards at the casino night, which is one of their
7 biggest fundraisers since all of CASA is all
8 volunteer. So it was very nice to be there and
9 celebrate Pat Battle from Channel 4 News was the MC.
10 She did a wonderful job. Zonie Le Sane, a good
11 friend of ours, who also works at the county, she is
12 the Chairwoman, she did an absolutely great job with
13 the event. And the three women honored were Suzanne
14 Curry, who is the previous Chairwoman; Karen
15 Cedzidlo; and Debra E. Guston. It was definitively a
16 great night, and just for them to be the voice of our
17 voiceless children and to be there for them, it was a
18 wonderful evening just to hear the stories and how
19 much they have touched the lives of so many people,
20 how many people have adopted even through the
21 program. So I thank them.

22 I also wanted to thank the County
23 Executive, the administration, and everyone that took
24 part in putting the budget together. I'm very
25 pleased, I couldn't believe that we were able to keep

1 it under the COLA and that we will looking forward to
2 starting our budget hearings next week, headed by
3 Freeholder Ganz and by everyone on this Board,
4 because one thing that we all do on this Freeholder
5 Board is participate in our budget. I'm very
6 thankful that we are all going to be working together
7 and we'll have a very busy next 2 to 3 weeks. I just
8 thank everyone who put it together and the County
9 Executive and everyone, because it really takes a
10 village to put this budget together.

11 So I will keep it short. Thank so much
12 for everything and for everyone here tonight.

13 There being nothing further to come
14 before this meeting, may have I have a motion to
15 adjourn?

16 FREEHOLDER GANZ: So moved.

17 VICE-CHAIRWOMAN AMOROSO: Second.

18 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: All in favor?

19 (All present Freeholders respond in the
20 affirmative.)

21 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Opposed?

22 (No response.)

23 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: We're adjourned at
24 8:53 p.m.

25 (Whereupon, the Public Meeting is

1 adjourned at 8:53 p.m.)

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

C E R T I F I C A T I O N

I, KIM O. FURBACHER, License No. XIO1042, a Certified Court Reporter, Registered Merit Reporter, Certified Realtime Court Reporter, and Notary Public of the State of New Jersey, hereby certify that the foregoing is a verbatim record of the testimony provided under oath before any court, referee, board, commission or other body created by statute of the State of New Jersey.

I am not related to the parties involved in this action; I have no financial interest, nor am I related to an agent of or employed by anyone with a financial interest in the outcome of this action.

This transcript complies with Regulation 13:43-5.9 of the New Jersey Administrative Code.

KIM O. FURBACHER, CRCR, CCR, RMR
License #XIO1042, and Notary Public
of New Jersey

My Commission Expires:
7/11/19