

BOROUGH OF NORTH ARLINGTON
MAYOR AND COUNCIL

TRANSCRIPT
OF
MEETING MINUTES

Place: Municipal Building
214 Ridge Road
North Arlington, NJ 07031

Date: July 21, 2011

B E F O R E:

BOROUGH OF NORTH ARLINGTON MAYOR AND COUNCIL

A P P E A R A N C E S:

RANDY PEARCE, ESQ.,
Attorney for the Borough of North Arlington.

ALSO PRESENT:

PETER C. MASSA, Mayor
TERENCE WALL, Borough Clerk
JAMES MANGIN, Chief Financial Officer
PAUL CLERK, Township Auditor
STEPHANIE SANTOS, Township Engineer

TAPE REPORTERS, INC.
Charlene P. Scognamiglio
29 Beach Road
Monmouth Beach, NJ 07750
732-263-1191

1 MR. WALL: Good evening. This meeting
2 is being held in accordance with the rules and
3 regulations of the Open Public Meetings Act of the
4 State of New Jersey. Adequate notice of this
5 meeting was provided by forwarding a Sunshine
6 Notice, which included the time, date, and
7 location of this public meeting of the Mayor and
8 Council.

9 MAYOR MASSA: Call the roll.

10 MR. WALL: Councilman Yampaglia?

11 COUNCILMAN YAMPAGLIA: Here.

12 MR. WALL: Councilman Bianchi?

13 COUNCILMAN BIANCHI: Here.

14 MR. WALL: Councilman Hughes?

15 COUNCILMAN HUGHES: Here.

16 MR. WALL: Councilman Johnson?

17 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Here.

18 MR. WALL: Councilman Tanelli?

19 COUNCILMAN TANELLI: Here.

20 MR. WALL: Councilman Kearney?

21 COUNCILMAN KEARNEY: Here.

22 MR. WALL: Thank you.

23 Also present Mayor Peter C. Massa,
24 Borough Clerk Terrence Wall, and Borough Attorney
25 Randy Pearce.

1 MAYOR MASSA: Thank you, Mr. Clerk.

2 Ladies and gentlemen, please rise for
3 the salute to the flag.

4 (Pledge of Allegiance)

5 MAYOR MASSA: Ladies and gentlemen, at
6 this time I'm -- I'm going to open the meeting to
7 the hearing of citizens. Anybody who wishes to be
8 heard, please come forward. State your name and
9 address for the record. Please confine your
10 comments to municipal matters. And also please
11 try to confine your comments to five minutes so
12 that everybody has a chance to be heard.

13 MR. PARISI: Good evening, Councilman.
14 John Parisi, (phonetic), 40 Geraldine Road, North
15 Arlington, New Jersey.

16 Mr. Pearce, I was wondering if you
17 received the survey and had a chance to review it?

18 MR. PEARCE: I did receive it, and I --
19 I will comment on it later.

20 Or would you like me to comment now, Mr.
21 Mayor?

22 MAYOR MASSA: Wait until the end of the
23 hearing if you could, --

24 MR. PARISI: Okay.

25 MAYOR MASSA: -- Counselor.

1 MR. PARISI: I just wanted to know that
2 you got it.

3 MR. PEARCE: Yes.

4 MAYOR MASSA: Okay. Very good, Mr.
5 Parisi. Thank you.

6 MR. PARISI: Thank you.

7 MAYOR MASSA: Anyone else?

8 Nobody wishes to be heard. I'll
9 entertain a motion to close the hearing of
10 citizens.

11 Do you wish to be heard, sir? Come
12 forward please.

13 MR. NORCIA: Should I be up there?

14 MAYOR MASSA: No, no, no. I thought you
15 had plenty of time to respond.

16 MR. NORCIA: My leg is bothering me.
17 Bob Norcia (phonetic), 108 Somerset Avenue, North
18 Arlington. Everybody should know my address by
19 now.

20 Mayor, I just want to go over this thing
21 because I'm totally confused by it. You said I
22 think it was in February or March that you had Mr.
23 Pearce looking into things about the -- the
24 incident and the problem that I have. If you have
25 -- if -- if your neighbor violates the local

1 zoning law or other ordinances, report the
2 violations to the proper departments. It then
3 becomes the department's responsibility to correct
4 the problem. And I got that out of a law book on
5 Page 377 in case you want to know.

6 The problem is I keep coming up you say
7 you want to help. Everybody says they want to
8 help, and I'm being BS'ed. Nobody --

9 MAYOR MASSA: Oh, well, --

10 MR. NORCIA: -- is doing anything.

11 MAYOR MASSA: -- let's cut to the case.
12 What's the specific violation and who have you
13 reported it to? Is -- is this a new violation
14 other than --

15 MR. NORCIA: No. It's the same --

16 MAYOR MASSA: -- what you've --

17 MR. NORCIA: It's the --

18 MAYOR MASSA: -- been in here before on?

19 MR. NORCIA: It's the same violation.

20 MAYOR MASSA: It's the same violation
21 that goes

22 MR. NORCIA: The --

23 MAYOR MASSA: -- back to when?

24 MR. NORCIA: It goes back to whatever
25 date it was. 2008 whatever it is. And they were

1 supposed to do things. Nothing was done. An
2 agreement was made. She was given summonses. I
3 have a copy of it. And on this particular day,
4 I'm very upset about it because your Prosecutor,
5 Mr. Daveys that day had this dismissed, and it's a
6 conflict of interest, and you said it wasn't a
7 conflict of interest.

8 MAYOR MASSA: Well, I'm not going to
9 comment on what's a conflict -- conflict of
10 interest. That's not -- that's not my
11 responsibility --

12 MR. NORCIA: Pertaining to --

13 MAYOR MASSA: -- or within my authority
14 to do that.

15 MR. NORCIA: Pertaining to --

16 MAYOR MASSA: You can put on the record
17 what your complaints are, and then a -- an ethics
18 board could decide whether or not there's a
19 conflict of interest at all.

20 MR. NORCIA: Ethics board?

21 MAYOR MASSA: The State Ethics
22 Committee.

23 MR. NORCIA: Do you think it was proper
24 for your own Prosecutor was -- had this --

25 MAYOR MASSA: Well, I'm not --

1 MR. NORCIA: -- dismissed?

2 MAYOR MASSA: -- going to comment
3 because I don't know what the status was of the
4 Prosecutor at the time, sir.

5 MR. NORCIA: Well, they went --

6 MAYOR MASSA: And what roll we played.

7 MR. NORCIA: -- in the back room.

8 Robert Kairys came out --

9 MAYOR MASSA: All right. Well, --

10 MR. NORCIA: -- and the case was
11 dismissed.

12 MAYOR MASSA: -- again, you're making
13 allegations here where they're -- the people
14 involved they're not present to defend themselves.
15 And this is not an adversarial proceeding. We
16 just want to hear what your complaint is. From my
17 understanding, the Administrator and the Borough
18 Attorney have worked on these issues over a number
19 of months to have them resolved.

20 MR. NORCIA: Right. But nothing has
21 been resolved. I have a letter --

22 MAYOR MASSA: Okay. So you say that
23 it's not been resolved?

24 MR. NORCIA: It's not resolved.

25 MAYOR MASSA: Then we will --

1 MR. NORCIA: Mr. Pearce --
 2 MAYOR MASSA: -- have the Borough
 3 Attorney explain to you why it hasn't been
 4 resolved or --
 5 MR. NORCIA: They said they had given --
 6 MAYOR MASSA: -- or where it's going
 7 from here.
 8 MR. NORCIA: They said they had given
 9 two letters that I know of. I have two. Given at
 10 different times that Robert Kairys was also
 11 supposed to be involved to issue the letters. And
 12 nothing was followed up. I have an agreement that
 13 was made with two councilmen that came down. One
 14 Democrat and one Republican came down to get the
 15 agreement. And still nothing was done.
 16 At the time, I had previously, when I
 17 brought it up to you about the fence that it was
 18 illegal, with -- and for other reasons that the
 19 fence went further than it supposed to, Mrs. DeLia
 20 (phonetic) said she had -- that was all her
 21 property. And I said that's not true. And you
 22 said to me I was out of order.
 23 I just want to clarify it. In going
 24 over the boundaries, in going over, Mr. Pearce and
 25 Robert Kairys saw the boundary line. And she is

1 almost three feet on someone else's property. So
 2 that fence is even illegal. And I'm -- there's no
 3 -- nobody is doing anything about anything. I
 4 mean, it's ridiculous. I'm here and I'm holding
 5 every councilman now responsible for not resolving
 6 this thing.
 7 MAYOR MASSA: Well, I'll have the
 8 attorney --
 9 MR. NORCIA: I mean, it's ridiculous.
 10 MAYOR MASSA: I'll have the attorney
 11 address your issue at the completion of the
 12 hearing of citizens.
 13 MR. NORCIA: I'm -- I'm hearing all kind
 14 -- well, it ain't doing nothing because one of the
 15 councilmen is a friend of the father. One
 16 councilman knows the guy since he was born.
 17 Another --
 18 MAYOR MASSA: Well, --
 19 MR. NORCIA: -- councilman --
 20 MAYOR MASSA: -- again, listen to what
 21 you're -- you're making hearsay statements that --
 22 that are --
 23 MR. NORCIA: Well, it happens to be true
 24 if nobody is doing nothing.
 25 MAYOR MASSA: -- that -- that are not

1 supported by any evidence other than -- other than
2 your comments. And the people here that you're --
3 you're making allegations against people who are
4 not here to defend themselves. And this is not an
5 adversarial proceeding. This is not a court. If
6 you want to make those comments about conflicts of
7 interest, about whose -- about favoritism, then
8 you can do that at -- at the proper forum which
9 should be a legal forum, not -- not the Council
10 meeting.

11 What we can do here at the Council
12 meeting is, as we have done, we referred it to the
13 Borough Attorney to investigate the matter and to
14 recommend the property action.

15 Now, Counselor, do you want to comment
16 on that -- either now or at the completion of
17 the --

18 MR. PEARCE: I'm prepared to -- to
19 respond to Mr. Norcia --

20 MAYOR MASSA: Okay.

21 MR. PEARCE: -- with the --

22 MR. NORCIA: (Indiscernible) -- do you
23 want to let me --

24 MAYOR MASSA: Well, at the completion of
25 hearing of citizens.

1 MR. NORCIA: All right. The other
2 thing, Mayor, --

3 MAYOR MASSA: Because we want to --
4 there's other people here that may want to be
5 heard and we want to give them a chance.

6 MR. NORCIA: Well, nobody got as -- up
7 as quick like I did. So --

8 MAYOR MASSA: Well, that's quite okay.
9 Some folks may be a little slower. They might
10 have a hip problem or something.

11 MR. NORCIA: I just want to bring a
12 point up. Okay. I spoke to several -- going back
13 several councilmen. Mr. Tanelli was honest to
14 say, well, Mr. Norcia, I went by Mr. DeLia's
15 statement. He said she has all that property.
16 Now I want the councilmen, including Mr. Tanelli
17 to go by the findings of Robert Kairys and Mr.
18 Pearce that she does not have that property. And
19 DeLia -- Mr. DeLia allowed that to happen to put
20 the fence on someone else's property. That's part
21 of the -- my problem also.

22 MAYOR MASSA: Is that other person you
23 that someone else's property? Is that your
24 property or somebody --

25 MR. NORCIA: No. It's --

1 MAYOR MASSA: -- property other than
2 yours?
3 MR. NORCIA: It's someone else's
4 property that's -- that she -- whatever she did
5 that created the big problem.
6 MAYOR MASSA: Is that --
7 MR. NORCIA: You know what --
8 MAYOR MASSA: Is that person --
9 MR. NORCIA: -- the problem is.
10 MAYOR MASSA: -- in the room?
11 MR. NORCIA: You don't want me to go
12 through that...
13 MAYOR MASSA: No. Is that person in the
14 room tonight that is the victim of the
15 encroachment?
16 MR. NORCIA: I don't -- I don't know. I
17 don't -- I can't see behind my head.
18 MAYOR MASSA: Okay. Well, then --
19 because you said it's somebody else, so I didn't
20 know whether or not they're -- whether or not
21 they've made a complaint to the construction --
22 MR. NORCIA: Well, --
23 MAYOR MASSA: -- official either.
24 MR. NORCIA: -- Council -- I mean,
25 attorney, excuse, Councilman.

1 MAYOR MASSA: Okay. All right. Let's
2 continue, please.
3 MR. NORCIA: Mr. Pearce did verify it
4 with Kairys --
5 MAYOR MASSA: Okay.
6 MR. NORCIA: -- that the -- that there
7 was almost three foot on somebody else's property.
8 Which could be maybe part of the problems. Okay.
9 I mean, I keep coming up peacefully, but everybody
10 -- you're attacking me every time I come up.
11 MAYOR MASSA: I think I'm --
12 MR. NORCIA: Every time --
13 MAYOR MASSA: -- trying to be very --
14 MR. NORCIA: -- I come up, I can't
15 complaint.
16 MAYOR MASSA: -- very accommodating to
17 you.
18 MR. NORCIA: You know, I mean, it's
19 ridiculous.
20 MAYOR MASSA: I'm listening to your
21 complaint. I've referred it to the proper
22 municipal --
23 MR. NORCIA: The problem is --
24 MAYOR MASSA: -- municipal officers --
25 MR. NORCIA: -- that I have --

1 the water in my yard comes from my garden. I
2 never had water in my yard until the fence was put
3 up. I got the garden there 25 years.

4 MAYOR MASSA: Okay.

5 MR. NORCIA: So what did I do? A spring
6 come up and went down the hill now since -- since
7 he took over. I don't understand. Now she took
8 out a -- she took two and -- two and a half week
9 -- two and a half days of electrical work and
10 didn't take a permit again. Like she didn't take
11 a permit out for the fence, and nobody is doing
12 nothing. What person in North Arlington is above
13 the law? What person? You were a policeman 40
14 years. I remember saying that to you. And --

15 MAYOR MASSA: Nobody.

16 MR. NORCIA: I beg your pardon?

17 MAYOR MASSA: No one is above the law.

18 MR. NORCIA: Well, that's where --

19 MAYOR MASSA: None -- none of us.

20 MR. NORCIA: So why is this woman
21 allowed to be above the law with four complaints?

22 MAYOR MASSA: Well, we'll --

23 MR. NORCIA: Four legal complaints.

24 MAYOR MASSA: -- we'll check to see if
25 there's a notice of violation given to her on

1 that.

2 MR. NORCIA: That's it.

3 MAYOR MASSA: Thank you, sir.

4 MS. FORTATO: Hello.

5 MAYOR MASSA: Good evening, ma'am.

6 MS. FORTATO: My name is Maria Fortato
7 (phonetic). I live on 140 Riverview on the corner
8 of Hendel. And that is my problem is Hendel
9 Avenue which at the end is Rip Collins Field. And
10 my son is already 28, but I've been an advocate
11 for the children. We've had a lot of children
12 come into the neighborhood. And a lot of them
13 don't speak English. And for some reason, as I
14 told you in May, and you were at my house, they
15 come to me.

16 We have two autism children. And I
17 wrote a letter back in October, as you told me to
18 do, and I wrote it to the attention of Terence.
19 There were some things that were on here which I
20 have to say were done very, very fast by Jimmy
21 McCabe the week after. This was October 2010.

22 MAYOR MASSA: Okay.

23 MS. FORTATO: And my problem is the --
24 the way the people are speeding up from Rip
25 Collins and down. Okay. There's a blind spot

1 that I have maybe some letters, but I'm not sure
2 if I have enough for everybody, but Terence would
3 know, and Sergeant Riley had seen what I'm talking
4 about. Okay. My problem is their situation that
5 they did was make a ramp in the middle of my
6 grass. Okay. Which I want just an explanation
7 which I tried to call Sergeant Riley. I tried to
8 call Terence, and I have not gotten responses to
9 explain to me how that ramp -- now we have five
10 ramps on that corner. And I'd like to know what
11 that ramp how that is going to slow the speeders
12 from coming up and down?

13 MAYOR MASSA: Are you referring to a
14 speed bump?

15 MS. FORTATO: No. I'm referring to a
16 handicapped ramp.

17 MAYOR MASSA: Oh, handicapped ramp --

18 MS. FORTATO: Yes.

19 MAYOR MASSA: -- on the corner? Okay.

20 MS. FORTATO: Not on the corner. In the
21 middle of my grass.

22 MAYOR MASSA: In the middle of your
23 grass?

24 MS. FORTATO: Yes.

25 MAYOR MASSA: On --

1 MS. FORTATO: I have pictures.

2 MAYOR MASSA: -- your property?

3 MS. FORTATO: On my property that was
4 just done which is still with yellow --

5 MAYOR MASSA: Who put that there?

6 MR. WALL: The recommendation of Officer
7 Riley.

8 MS. FORTATO: And I want to know exactly
9 how --

10 MAYOR MASSA: I guess you have to see
11 this.

12 MS. FORTATO: I want someone to explain
13 to me how that isn't -- there is the sign, here's
14 my house. Okay. There's a -- there's so far
15 four. And this is where they made the ramp in the
16 middle of my grass, and it's still like this since
17 the 15th. Here is the ramp near my house. This
18 is the wall of my house. Okay. And the problem
19 is not here. The problem is down more is where
20 there's a blind spot as Terence had droven (sic)
21 up and said you saw what I was trying to explain.

22 MR. WALL: Drove to the site, yes. Uh-
23 huh.

24 MS. FORTATO: Okay. And I just want an
25 explanation of what -- what's -- this handicap is

1 going to do. How this is going to slow the
 2 speeders. I just want an explanation. That's
 3 what I've been trying to pull.
 4 MAYOR MASSA: Can we see the --
 5 MS. FORTATO: Okay. I'm just trying to
 6 -- I thought maybe they would do. I went to
 7 Lyndhurst and took this picture and thought maybe
 8 they could do like a walkway with a sign like
 9 this. Okay. That's what I thought maybe they
 10 were trying to do. But nobody is explaining to
 11 me.

12 Now I spoke to the crossing guards over
 13 up by Thomas Jefferson School, and they told me
 14 there's a speed hump -- there's speed bumps and
 15 there's speed tables, which I don't know what a --
 16 speed tables were. But I guess it's the ones that
 17 go brrrrrrr.

18 MAYOR MASSA: Ripples. Yeah.

19 MS. FORTATO: Okay. So they said that's
 20 the best. Okay. Rip Collins is at the end. This
 21 is a very traveled street, okay, by many
 22 children. And I've seen quite a few -- my living
 23 room is right on the corner and I've heard quite a
 24 few people (screech noise), they like seem to get
 25 up to a certain point, and they feel they have to

1 rev up. Okay. I've seen people walking their
 2 dogs almost get hit. I've seen people walking
 3 with carriages almost get hit, okay, with the
 4 screeching sound. Okay.

5 So my idea was at one time Sergeant
 6 Riley had the -- the trailer there for a while and
 7 it was slowing down. It did slow down. The
 8 trailer --

9 MAYOR MASSA: You're talking about the
 10 speed --

11 MS. FORTATO: The speed trailer.

12 MAYOR MASSA: -- the radar --

13 MS. FORTATO: Right.

14 MAYOR MASSA: -- radar unit --

15 MS. FORTATO: He had that --

16 MAYOR MASSA: -- with the trailer --

17 MS. FORTATO: -- there for --

18 MAYOR MASSA: -- that tells you how fast
 19 you're going?

20 MS. FORTATO: Temporarily keep it there.
 21 Okay. I -- Jimmy did put a sign "Children at
 22 Play," but the problem is at night no one can see
 23 it. So now we have two autism children they have
 24 no fear. They just run right across. I've been
 25 there since '89. We only had like maybe two,

1 three children. Right now there is up to 14
2 children living there. Not counting all the kids
3 that go back and forth to practice. Okay.
4 MAYOR MASSA: You saying living there,
5 Ms. Fortato, you're talking about the neighborhood
6 or in one house?
7 MS. FORTATO: In my house I've been
8 living in eight -- since '89.
9 MAYOR MASSA: No. How -- where are the
10 14 kids, are they living in --
11 MS. FORTATO: No. Fourteen kids have
12 come into the new neighborhood. They're new
13 neighbors. And all they come --
14 MAYOR MASSA: So they're new residents
15 from different -- different buildings?
16 MS. FORTATO: Right.
17 Mayor MASSA: Okay.
18 MS. FORTATO: All the houses that have
19 been sold and that they're mostly Portuguese and
20 bilingual people. And they for some reason came
21 to my house, and I had your signs on my lawn, they
22 all tend to come to me and ask me to be the
23 advocate --
24 MAYOR MASSA: Okay.
25 MS. FORTATO: -- to speak for them.

1 MAYOR MASSA: Well, you're doing a fine
2 job. I commend you.
3 MS. FORTATO: Well, hey, I don't know
4 why the heck I'm even bothering because, like I
5 said, I don't have any small children. But like I
6 feel bad for these kids.
7 MAYOR MASSA: Uh-huh.
8 MS. FORTATO: That's it. Another reason
9 I wanted to know also I've been noticing around
10 town all the side streets are being paved. Okay.
11 I was wondering is Hendel -- because I have
12 pictures also Hendel is very deteriorated.
13 Especially when you come up from River Road and
14 you come up, your car is just jangling, and you're
15 lucky if a wheel doesn't fall off. All right. So
16 I was wondering is Hendel, which is an important
17 street to me, mostly you go to parks or wherever
18 children are going to go, you see signs saying
19 "Slow Down Children Are Around," --
20 MAYOR MASSA: Uh-huh.
21 MS. FORTATO: -- or whatever. There is
22 no such signs going down to Rip Collins or coming
23 up to Rip Collins to slow down. Now that ramp all
24 it did was, number one, take away a parking spot.
25 During football season, you know -- you know,

1 they've --
2 MAYOR MASSA: I know.
3 MS. FORTATO: -- parked in my driveway
4 and -- and they block my driveway.
5 MAYOR MASSA: And you have to call the
6 police to get them towed --
7 MS. FORTATO: Yes.
8 MAYOR MASSA: -- out of there or get a
9 summons --
10 MS. FORTATO: So now they went --
11 MAYOR MASSA: -- for them.
12 MS. FORTATO: -- and put this ramp here.
13 But I want an explanation how is that going to
14 slow the speeders.
15 MAYOR MASSA: Uh-huh.
16 MS. FORTATO: Because my letter was to
17 slow speeders. I even suggested putting four stop
18 signs. Okay. Put some stop signs on Riverview
19 and Hendel so that when they come up, they have to
20 stop. So what I'm here for since I'm not getting
21 any calls back from Sergeant Reilly or from
22 Terence of what accomplishment is this handicapped
23 ramp which is now more for the kids to go with
24 their skateboards and their scooters up into my
25 wall. That's what it's doing.

1 MAYOR MASSA: Is that ramp being used by
2 any --
3 MS. FORTATO: Okay.
4 MAYOR MASSA: -- handicapped people at
5 all?
6 MS. FORTATO: No. There's no
7 handicapped people --
8 MAYOR MASSA: It's not?
9 MS. FORTATO: -- at all. No. And
10 there's one right on the corner which that one was
11 done by Rabert (sic) -- Robert Kairys because the
12 sidewalk was very high. And he did that very fast
13 because a child fell there and he bloodied his
14 knee. I came up here and showed him the picture
15 and the next day it was done. But I just want an
16 explanation of how this ramp is supposed to slow
17 down the speeders.
18 MAYOR MASSA: Okay.
19 MS. FORTATO: And --
20 MAYOR MASSA: I'm getting a signal from
21 the Department of Public Works Superintendent --
22 MS. FORTATO: Okay.
23 MAYOR MASSA: -- that he'll explain this
24 to you at the end of the hearing of citizens.
25 MS. FORTATO: You can explain it? Okay.

1 MR. MC CABE: Yes. I went -- I was
2 there with my car --
3 MAYOR MASSA: Jim, just at the end of
4 the hearing. Thank you.
5 MS. FORTATO: What, at the end of the
6 hearing he'll --
7 MAYOR MASSA: Yeah. Once everybody has
8 been heard, then we'll address your problem and --
9 MS. FORTATO: Okay.
10 MAYOR MASSA: -- just as we're going to
11 address Mr. Norcia's and Mr. Parisi's.
12 MS. FORTATO: Okay. Also I wanted to
13 know would -- do -- does he know also if Hendel
14 Avenue will be paved while the other streets are
15 being paved?
16 MAYOR MASSA: Well, as far as paving is
17 concerned, we generally have a schedule --
18 MS. FORTATO: Uh-huh.
19 MAYOR MASSA: -- as to what streets need
20 the most paving.
21 MS. FORTATO: Okay.
22 MAYOR MASSA: The infrastructure in the
23 community has been deteriorated for a number of
24 years. You've been able -- unable to keep up on a
25 lot of the paving. But, again, I'll address that

1 in further detail when -- when your --
2 MS. FORTATO: All right. Because I --
3 MAYOR MASSA: -- comments are complete.
4 MS. FORTATO: -- seen the street over --
5 two streets over, and I have pictures of how
6 deteriorated. And that's just from my house down,
7 not up. Up to Rich Road how deteriorated also
8 it's been. That was also in my letter, one of my
9 asking if that was going to be paved. Then I was
10 wondering maybe that's what they're waiting for
11 to be paved, and they're going to make a
12 crosswalk? I just want an explanation of what's
13 going to be --
14 MAYOR MASSA: Okay.
15 MS. FORTATO: -- done there. That's all
16 I wanted to know.
17 MAYOR MASSA: Thank you, ma'am.
18 MS. FORTATO: Okay. And like I said, I
19 feel bad for the kids. Mostly everybody goes down
20 that street for football season, baseball season,
21 the parades go down that street. I think that's a
22 very popular street. And like I said, I seen
23 almost accidents happen, and I don't want to see
24 an accident happen and then something be done. It
25 should be done before the accident happens. And

1 that was it.

2 MAYOR MASSA: Thank you.

3 MS. FORTATO: Okay. Thank you. Thank
4 you.

5 MR. SCHEMP: Richie Schemp (phonetic),
6 601 Schuyler Avenue. I'd like you guys maybe to
7 get a hold of the County I would assume because
8 I'm in that County-owned road in North Arlington
9 Road --

10 MAYOR MASSA: Right.

11 MR. SCHEMP: -- and Schuyler Avenue the
12 famous nowhere road. And they're starting this
13 new thing with -- I don't know if you guys ever
14 heard of it, jay braking.

15 MAYOR MASSA: Uh-huh.

16 MR. SCHEMP: A lot of towns are putting
17 up signs no jay braking because the dump trucks
18 come down and the big trailers and it saves their
19 brakes. I -- I think it's something that's
20 actually put on a motor and it just back pressure
21 on the motor and it comes out the exhaust and
22 everybody in the neighborhood their house rattles.
23 And I'd like to see if you guys can maybe put a
24 word to the County, or if you guys could do it and
25 put a sign up there by Schuyler Foods or something

1 no jay braking or a ticket. Because other towns
2 are doing it, and give a violation for it.

3 And it's just something that's a
4 quality-of-life thing. It's -- you know, you
5 still got the -- I go to the Chief a dozen times.
6 He says he's come down there. But you still got
7 the normal speeding. These tractor trailers come
8 by and these dump trucks come by, god forbid it's
9 going to happen sooner or later, and knock on
10 wood, I hope it doesn't, it's -- but that traffic
11 light on Canterbury and Schuyler somebody is going
12 to get nailed someday and you guys are going to
13 really be -- there's going to be all kinds of hell
14 for it. Because nobody ever does nothing. I
15 don't care if you call the County Police or what.
16 But they go crazy down there.

17 And I'd like to -- it seems like it's
18 come up, and I understand what you guys are
19 saying, you're here to help us. But there's a lot
20 of times I come here and I see people who won't
21 even say -- it should be a simple answer. Either
22 yes, no, you're wrong, you're right. It just
23 seems like it gets lost in the shuffle a lot of
24 times when Schuyler Avenue is on. None of them
25 traffic lights ever been fixed. The emergency

1 squad I'm waiting for the emergency rig to get
2 blasted some day. How many times have I been here
3 for that, and it's never been -- never been fixed
4 that I see.

5 The Fire Department truck it comes out
6 by the DPW, that light never goes on and off when
7 the trucks come out. No. You got a 250,000-
8 dollar rig coming out of that disposal road --

9 MAYOR MASSA: Uh-huh.

10 MR. SCHEMP: -- at a bend, you got --
11 and you could lose life. That -- the light is
12 sitting there. That's what kills me. It's not
13 that we have to spend \$300,000 on a light. The
14 light is there. It's a matter of getting the
15 firemen to use it, or getting whatever problem is
16 to fix it, to fix it. And it would even help out
17 the DPW probably coming in and out of there with
18 trucks and stuff. But it just -- just they sit
19 there and they blink all three of them. They just
20 keep blinking. And it's crazy. All that money
21 sits there and it's been blinking for years.

22 MAYOR MASSA: Are you saying that you
23 never see any law enforcement action being taken
24 there? You don't see any cops stopping the trucks
25 or writing tickets?

1 MR. SCHEMP: Not that I see. Not in the
2 residential part right there. Nope. I don't see
3 it. I seen it -- I seen the -- one time we talked
4 to them and we got the sign put up, that
5 electronic speed sign.

6 MAYOR MASSA: Uh-huh.

7 MR. SCHEMP: Okay. And unless you put
8 some -- to be perfectly honest, once you put some
9 muscle in back of that thing, after two days it's
10 like the sign doesn't even exist. The first few
11 days they see it, oh, yeah, wow, 35 miles an hour
12 and they slow down. But after that, it's like,
13 what are you kidding me. A couple of rocks --
14 (indiscernible) -- as they go by. I'm just saying
15 this is the only things I observe.

16 It's not blaming anybody here. I'm not
17 blaming the cops. I'm not blaming anybody. But
18 it's things that I've been up here for a whole lot
19 of times too. And it just -- it just seems --
20 don't -- it doesn't get -- and it's a waste of
21 money. Like the traffic lights it's a waste of
22 money. If somebody gets killed, and you had that
23 money sitting there all them years and it's not
24 working, wouldn't you feel kind of silly that that
25 light has been sitting there blinking for all

1 these years and it was there for a dedicated
 2 purpose and somebody now got killed because the
 3 light is still blinking and it don't -- nobody
 4 uses it and nobody works with it.
 5 MAYOR MASSA: All right. Thank you.
 6 MR. SCHEMP: Okay.
 7 MAYOR MASSA: Anyone else?
 8 MR. BIAS: Good evening, gentlemen. My
 9 name is Anthony Bias (phonetic), Senior Vice
 10 Commander of the VFW. My question is, our lease
 11 is up in 2012. I'd like to know what is the
 12 proposal for the VFW because there was rumors that
 13 the VFW was going to be diminished. And I didn't
 14 even know if that's true. Because I talked to
 15 some of my comrades at the Veterans Affairs
 16 Department in Trenton and Washington, DC. That
 17 stuff cannot happen, if it is true.
 18 What I want to know is, how long is the
 19 lease for? It's coming up. I'm not sure if
 20 Harvey Applegate, who is the commander, signed a
 21 lease. But I need to know what's going on.
 22 MAYOR MASSA: Okay.
 23 MR. BIAS: Because I will be the next
 24 Commander.
 25 MAYOR MASSA: We'll give you that answer

1 momentarily.
 2 MR. BIAS: Okay.
 3 MAYOR MASSA: Thank you.
 4 MR. BIAS: I appreciate that.
 5 MAYOR MASSA: Anyone else wish to be
 6 heard?
 7 I'll entertain a motion --
 8 COUNCILMAN TANELLI: I'll make that.
 9 MAYOR MASSA: -- to close the hearing of
 10 citizens? Councilman Tanelli. Seconded by
 11 Councilman Yampaglia.
 12 Call the roll.
 13 MR. WALL: Councilman Yampaglia?
 14 COUNCILMAN YAMPAGLIA: Yes.
 15 MR. WALL: Councilman Bianchi?
 16 COUNCILMAN BIANCHI: Yes
 17 MR. WALL: Councilman Hughes?
 18 COUNCILMAN HUGHES: Yes.
 19 MR. WALL: Councilman Johnson?
 20 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Yes.
 21 MR. WALL: Councilman Tanelli?
 22 COUNCILMAN TANELLI: Yes.
 23 MR. WALL: Councilman Kearney?
 24 COUNCILMAN KEARNEY: Yes.
 25 MAYOR MASSA: Okay. With respect to

1 Mr. Parisi's issue, I think the Borough Attorney
2 has --

3 MR. PEARCE: Yes. If I may, --

4 MAYOR MASSA: -- is prepared to handle
5 that.

6 MR. PEARCE: -- Mr. Mayor, if I could
7 address Mr. Parisi, Mr. Norcia, and Mr. Bias --

8 MAYOR MASSA: Okay.

9 MR. PEARCE: -- with your permission?

10 Mr. Parisi, I did receive your survey,
11 and also through our engineer, Stephanie Santos, I
12 was able to confirm that your survey matches the
13 information that we have. And I only received
14 this within the last 24 hours. Yours, plus the
15 confirmation from Neglia. So in our executive
16 session tonight we'll be discussing the fact that
17 I now know where your property ends legally.
18 Which helps us to actually formulate a plan, if
19 any. I don't know where it's -- I can't tell you
20 where it's going to go. But before we can take
21 any action, I had to confirm where your property
22 line was. And I can now relate that to the Board
23 tonight. Okay.

24 Mr. Norcia, I can -- I can report to you
25 that although it has taken quite a bit of time, a

1 deadline of August 15th has been given to your
2 neighbor and her attorney to remove the -- the
3 last three feet that's on Mr. McAllister's
4 property. And if that does not occur by that
5 date, then appropriate legal action will be taken
6 for enforcement purposes. So it's -- I know it's
7 not as quickly as you would have liked it to have
8 happened.

9 But as far as the other issues are
10 concerned, the feeding of animals, electrical
11 permits, things of those -- along those lines,
12 that would be certainly up to you to report to the
13 appropriate authorities and -- and action will be
14 taken, if appropriate. But for -- in terms of
15 your property and your fence, it's either going to
16 be resolved by the 15th of August, or other action
17 will be taken.

18 And, Mr. Bias, we're -- we've been
19 discussing the lease. It is not finalized. It's
20 one of the issues on our agenda for executive
21 session tonight. But the lease has been drafted.
22 I have a draft lease to discuss in the executive
23 session tonight. But in terms of the eventual
24 decision by the Mayor and Council as to the
25 duration and things along those lines, it has not

1 been finalized as yet.

2 Thank you, Mr. Mayor.

3 MAYOR MASSA: One of the things that I
4 can tell you right out of the gate is that there's
5 no plan on the part of the governing body to tear
6 down the building or get rid of the building.
7 That's why we've been in negotiations with
8 representatives from the VFW. And that's why, as
9 the attorney said, it's -- it's going to be
10 further discussed.

11 There were some requirements that the
12 VFW had to comply with that we needed to protect
13 the legal interests of the Borough and the legal
14 interests, of course, of the VFW regarding
15 insurance issues. So they're -- they're being
16 addressed.

17 A COUNCILMAN: Point of order, Your
18 Honor.

19 MAYOR MASSA: Councilman?

20 COUNCILMAN TANELLI: Before we go away,
21 I just have a question for Mr. Pearce. One of Mr.
22 Norcia's concerns was the three violations that
23 were -- the town violations written by Mr. Kairys
24 to his neighbor were never paid, were never --
25 there was nothing ever done with that. And I

1 thought that in one of the discussions we had, it
2 was proven that she was in violation and that the
3 violations were -- should have been given. Do we
4 have a resolution on that? Do we know what --
5 what transpired? Were they dismissed or are --
6 are they still pending?

7 MR. PEARCE: No. They're not pending.
8 They -- they were more in the nature of warnings
9 being given at the same time that Mr. McAllister
10 who is the rear neighbor --

11 COUNCILMAN TANELLI: Right.

12 MR. PEARCE: -- brought to our attention
13 the fact, along with Mr. Norcia, that the fence
14 was not only never fully complied with in terms of
15 the settlement agreement that Mr. Bianchi was a
16 witness to, but that it was also not even on --
17 totally on her property.

18 COUNCILMAN BIANCHI: Right.

19 MR. PEARCE: So the -- you are correct I
20 did discuss this. And I mentioned the enforcement
21 action that was being taken. But then we got a --
22 a curve ball, which was the fact that the
23 additional action needed to be taken to remove
24 that -- the fence. We had to confirm that that
25 was accurate information. And so that's why it's

1 taking longer than -- and I apologize to Mr.
2 Norcia, taking longer than we expected.

3 But when the new information came in, we
4 had to then go to that as the solution. Because
5 if the last three feet are removed, we will no
6 longer have the water problem because the water
7 will be able to flow back where the fence is
8 removed.

9 COUNCILMAN TANELLI: Right.

10 MR. PEARCE: Assuming it happens. If
11 Ms. Jasowitch (phonetic) or Mr. Davey do not feel
12 compelled to do so, then it will end up with --
13 with the Judge and he'll have to deal with it.

14 COUNCILMAN TANELLI: Okay. Thank you.

15 COUNCILMAN BIANCHI: Point of order.

16 MAYOR MASSA: Councilman?

17 COUNCILMAN BIANCHI: When this came to a
18 boiling point a couple of years ago when we went
19 down with Sal we spoke to the woman, and she had
20 promised Sal and myself that she was going to
21 clean out underneath the fence so that air could
22 get underneath the fence and water could drain.
23 Well, she never did that. And which escalated
24 this to the point where it is today.

25 As far as the summonses go that she was

1 issued, in my eyes they were issued by officials
2 from the Town of North Arlington, and for reason
3 they were dismissed. And that's one of the
4 reasons why we're still here today four years
5 battling this for him. And I -- I think that this
6 has got to come to an end. This has to --

7 MAYOR MASSA: Well, if there are --

8 COUNCILMAN BIANCHI: -- got to come to
9 an end.

10 MAYOR MASSA: -- violations, they have
11 to be cited. They have to be -- they have to be
12 heard in court, and action --

13 COUNCILMAN BIANCHI: What --

14 MAYOR MASSA: -- and adjudicated.

15 COUNCILMAN BIANCHI: What she had told
16 Sal and myself that she would abide by -- she had
17 a landscaper and she would clean out underneath
18 the fence. And I had said to the woman, I says,
19 listen, you got 100 feet of fence here. You're
20 going to get on your hands and knees and rip out
21 all those weeds. Because there's two fences.
22 Okay. You're going to rip all those weeds out.
23 She says, I will do that.

24 And Sal was my witness when she said
25 that. And I says, I don't think you're going to

1 do it because I don't see how she could do it.
2 Well, anyway it just escalated and escalated, and
3 escalated, and here we today still after four
4 years battling the same problem.

5 MAYOR MASSA: Councilman?

6 COUNCILMAN TANELLI: That's kind of what
7 I just -- Randy, was there violations, and he's
8 saying that there were warnings.

9 MR. PEARCE: No, no. Let me -- let me
10 -- so we're not talking about two different
11 things, Mr. Mayor, may I?

12 MAYOR MASSA: Counselor?

13 MR. PEARCE: The violations that were
14 actually issued --

15 COUNCILMAN TANELLI: Uh-huh.

16 MR. PEARCE: -- were dismissed on
17 February 11th, 2008 by Judge Yampaglia.

18 COUNCILMAN TANELLI: Okay.

19 MR. PEARCE: And Mr. Norcia requested
20 the transcript. Mr. Wall provided the transcript.
21 I received it I believe earlier this week. And a
22 lecture was given by the Judge to both of the
23 neighbors advising them that if this came back
24 again, that there would be jail time, --

25 COUNCILMAN TANELLI: Okay.

1 MR. PEARCE: -- there would be a lot of
2 problems.

3 COUNCILMAN TANELLI: All right.

4 MR. PEARCE: So it is documented. There
5 is a transcript of that proceeding. There was the
6 settlement agreements. And there was compliance
7 in the minds of Ms. -- Ms. Jasowitch and Mr. Davey
8 that Mr. Kairys and I had to deal with whether or
9 not it was true compliance. And that's where we
10 got to 2011. So but when I spoke about this a
11 couple of months ago, at that meeting it was my
12 belief that we would be issuing those summonses
13 right then and there.

14 Then the McAllister property -- I mean,
15 property line boundary line issue came up, --

16 COUNCILMAN TANELLI: Right.

17 MR. PEARCE: -- so we had to back off
18 from the -- the violations to deal with the fence
19 issue. Otherwise, we'd have two different
20 problems at the same time. So we put them all
21 into one. And now the deadline of August 15th is
22 -- is the actual deadline, or else we'll be back
23 in court.

24 COUNCILMAN TANELLI: Okay.

25 MR. PEARCE: Does that make sense?

1 MAYOR MASSA: Ms. Fortato, I understand
2 that the DPW Superintendent wanted to comment on
3 it.

4 Mr. McCabe, would you just --
5 MR. MC CABE: Do you want me to just
6 walk? --

7 MAYOR MASSA: -- come up to the
8 microphone, identify yourself, and just explain
9 the problem. And the rest of the issues that
10 she's raised we're going have the Administrator
11 address with the Police Department to find out why
12 that ramp was put there.

13 MR. MC CABE: Well, I'm going to tell
14 you why. I'll tell you --

15 MAYOR MASSA: And get any
16 instrumentalities that we have or documentation to
17 establish why that ramp was installed at that
18 location.

19 MR. MC CABE: Well, I'll --

20 MAYOR MASSA: Please.

21 MR. MC CABE: I'll explain why we put it
22 there. Okay. We went down to check for a speed
23 bump that she requested, and Sergeant Riley
24 realized, because the intersection is not
25 straight, it goes like this.

1 MAYOR MASSA: It's offset.

2 MR. MC CABE: Right. There's no
3 handicap ramp on her side for the people from the
4 north to -- the south side to get to the north
5 side. Unfortunately, it has to go from the corner
6 to her property. And first we didn't do it,
7 right? You came out --

8 MS. FORTATO: Well, I came out because I
9 thought...

10 MR. MC CABE: Yeah. And she asked us
11 not to do it. So we left. And then Sergeant
12 Riley said, no, the law says you have to put it
13 there. We went back about two or three weeks
14 later and put one in. And we're going to stripe
15 it next week. So that's --

16 MAYOR MASSA: All right.

17 MR. MC CABE: -- why it's where it is.

18 MAYOR MASSA: So --

19 MR. MC CABE: If you're going to get
20 from one side to the other side by going straight
21 across which is offset. You can't go this way,
22 this way, or this way, or that way.

23 MAYOR MASSA: So --

24 MS. FORTATO: So --

25 MAYOR MASSA: So the handicapped ramp --

1 MS. FORTATO: So are you telling me
 2 there is going to be a crosswalk from my ramp or
 3 that ramp they made there across over to the other
 4 side?
 5 MR. MC CABE: Yes. And with all of the
 6 corners.
 7 MS. FORTATO: And there -- and to the --
 8 all the corners?
 9 MR. MC CABE: Yes. Well, then it's got
 10 to get painted.
 11 MS. FORTATO: And there is going to be
 12 any kind of sign saying to slow down for -- of
 13 state -- state law like everybody else has, a
 14 cone, or a sign saying it's a state law. Because
 15 some people are idiots and do not know that you're
 16 supposed to stop at -- at crosswalks.
 17 A COUNCILMAN: I think what she's -- are
 18 you talking about the yield to pedestrians in the
 19 crosswalk sign like --
 20 COUNCILMAN BIANCHI: Point of order.
 21 MS. FORTATO: Yes. One minute. Is
 22 there going to be something like that?
 23 MAYOR MASSA: Okay. I see that we have
 24 a complicated issue we have to resolve.
 25 MS. FORTATO: (Indiscernible)

1 MAYOR MASSA: There's a point of order
 2 has been requested by Council Bianchi.
 3 MR. MC CABE: Oh, I don't know that.
 4 That's up to the Police Department.
 5 A COUNCILMAN BIANCHI: Point of order.
 6 MAYOR MASSA: Councilman Bianchi?
 7 COUNCILMAN BIANCHI: I use that street
 8 quite a bit. And to be honest with you, she is
 9 right. It -- the speeding doesn't really --
 10 MS. FORTATO: Thank you.
 11 COUNCILMAN BIANCHI: -- the speeding
 12 doesn't happen going up the hill. It's coming
 13 down the hill.
 14 A COUNCILMAN: So slow down.
 15 MS. FORTATO: It's coming up the hill.
 16 COUNCILMAN BIANCHI: No. It's coming
 17 down the hill. And I think a speed bump halfway
 18 in the middle of the hill would be -- would be
 19 apropos just about where Sal's house is. So it
 20 will keep him up at night.
 21 MS. FORTATO: I feel -- but I feel --
 22 A COUNCILMAN: Right in his driveway.
 23 A COUNCILMAN: No. Down further, right.
 24 MS. FORTATO: I feel by --
 25 (indiscernible) --

1 A COUNCILMAN: How about we put an
2 extension?
3 MS. FORTATO: -- that's where --
4 MAYOR MASSA: Okay.
5 MS. FORTATO: -- they put it up. I'm on
6 the corner.
7 MAYOR MASSA: Ms. Fortato, we --
8 MS. FORTATO: (Indiscernible)
9 MAYOR MASSA: -- we did -- we heard your
10 complaint. What I -- what I'm going to do is
11 refer this to both the Borough Engineer and the
12 Police Department to do a study of that problem
13 and give us a written report as to what we have to
14 do to address the serious environmental issues it
15 appears to me that we have there. Okay. So the
16 Administrator --
17 MS. FORTATO: I understand that, Mayor.
18 MAYOR MASSA: -- will --
19 MS. FORTATO: There might --
20 MAYOR MASSA: -- will address that.
21 MS. FORTATO: -- be some people coming
22 here it looked like they -- they just came and put
23 a ramp there and didn't explain anything to me.
24 And I wanted to know. And I kept calling and I
25 didn't get an answer, so I show up here and there.

1 MAYOR MASSA: Well, we'll get you an
2 answer --
3 MS. FORTATO: And I'm not getting an
4 answer.
5 MAYOR MASSA: -- in writing --
6 MS. FORTATO: I can't get an answer...
7 MAYOR MASSA: -- from the Borough
8 Clerk's Office.
9 MR. WALL: Well, Mayor and Council, just
10 -- just to I say, generally speaking, any time
11 there's -- there are inputs -- and I've spoken to
12 Mrs. Fortato many times on the phone, and we did
13 do the site visit, --
14 MS. FORTATO: Uh-huh.
15 MR. WALL: -- the intake process would
16 include referring the matter to the Traffic Safety
17 Officer who's trained to render an opinion as to
18 -- to what can or cannot be done. The budgeting
19 issues, the finance issues those are not his
20 issues. His issues are to issue a recommendation
21 if something has merit or if it doesn't, if it --
22 if it's consistent or it's not consistent with NJ
23 DOT regulations or local regulations, and things
24 of that nature.
25 But pursuant to the Mayor's order, we'll

1 -- we will have that specific location reviewed.
2 We'll include the Borough Engineer, if they
3 haven't been already, and we will get back with
4 Officer Riley who is trained in these matters.
5 And we rely upon his recommendations. Be it this
6 matter or be it any other matter. And we'll
7 follow up at the next meeting which is August 4th.

8 MAYOR MASSA: Thank you. As far as the
9 street paving is concerned, there are a number of
10 streets that we have listed to be paved.
11 Unfortunately, due to budgetary constraints and
12 other issues, most of the paving work that we do
13 in the community we rely on grants from the State
14 and the Federal government. And they pick out the
15 -- they decide what streets need to be paved.

16 Of course, we'd like to get Hendel
17 Avenue paved as soon as we can. We'll have the
18 Administrator take a look at that situation and
19 make a recommendation to the Council --

20 MS. FORTATO: Thank you.

21 MAYOR MASSA: -- as to whether or not it
22 would be feasible to either apply for a grant to
23 do that project or whether we should take it upon
24 ourselves and bond it. Of course, what I do want
25 the community to understand, and I think the

1 Councilman who just left the room here could bear
2 this out because he gets complaints from people in
3 the community more so than I think just about
4 anybody, is that they want their taxes controlled,
5 which we all do, but they want their streets
6 paved. We want to pave the streets and we want to
7 control taxes. If we -- in the best of all
8 possible worlds could pave all the streets and
9 keep the taxes under control, that's certainly
10 what we would do.

11 Unfortunately, now due to the budgetary
12 climate in Washington, DC, the flow-through money
13 that generally came to the State of New Jersey
14 Department of Transportation, then that came to
15 municipalities, is being cut off because of budget
16 cutbacks in Washington. And I don't want to get
17 into Washington matters, but they do sometimes
18 impact us here on the local level. But we do
19 understand your -- your concerns and we get -- I'd
20 say every Councilman sitting here will -- will get
21 hit with two questions. When is my street going
22 to be paved? And I get hit with --

23 MS. FORTATO: Well, I'm not --

24 MAYOR MASSA: -- my own street.

25 MS. FORTATO: -- for my street --

1 MAYOR MASSA: Okay. I've --
2 MS. FORTATO: -- to be paved. I live on
3 Riverview. I'm --
4 MAYOR MASSA: We've listened to you.
5 MS. FORTATO: I'm -- I'm --
6 MAYOR MASSA: We've listened to you.
7 MS. FORTATO: I'm talking about --
8 MAYOR MASSA: Okay.
9 MS. FORTATO: -- Hendel where all the
10 kids are involved in --
11 MAYOR MASSA: All right. We've listened
12 to you.
13 MS. FORTATO: Not my street. My street
14 is bad. I'm not complaining about my street.
15 MAYOR MASSA: There's a lot of them that
16 are bad. Okay. And I think --
17 MS. FORTATO: Well, there's --
18 MAYOR MASSA: -- every -- every --
19 MS. FORTATO: -- other streets that
20 aren't that bad --
21 MAYOR MASSA: Okay.
22 MS. FORTATO: -- and they're being
23 paved.
24 MAYOR MASSA: We've -- we've heard your
25 comments and respect them. And from what I can

1 tell you, I think Councilman Hughes and Yampaglia,
2 and everybody else gets the same thing when is --
3 when is my street going to be paved? My street in
4 my neighborhood hasn't been paved -- hasn't been
5 paved for 20 some odd years. The curbs are
6 deteriorating. And again it's because of a lack
7 of funds that we have. We have to prioritize
8 these projects. And whenever we can get these
9 projects done with grants, that's what we look to
10 do.
11 Okay. As far as the speeding is
12 concerned, I'm going to refer that again to the
13 Police Department to see what action could be
14 taken as far as speed bumps are concerned. We'll
15 take a look at that also. And we'll -- we'll get
16 a recommendation from the Police Department to
17 make a determination as to whether or not speed
18 bumps would be practical. I think what we need is
19 more enforcement. And I'd love to have more
20 enforcement. But there was a time we had 44
21 police officers and traffic enforcement was quite
22 -- quite strict in the community.
23 But with 30 -- 28 police officers, and
24 fewer officers on the street to do traffic
25 enforcement, answer the calls, of course, the cops

1 can't be there all the time. I do encourage
2 people all the time call the police when they have
3 a problem. What we'd like to do is establish that
4 radar unit, and perhaps the radar unit might have
5 an effect on the -- on the speeding issue in the
6 neighborhood. But let the police know when you
7 have that problem.

8 And if it's a -- if it's a particular
9 day of the week you have that problem, let the
10 Traffic Department know. If it's a particular
11 time of day. I know a lot of times we used to
12 complaints about speeding during the after school
13 hours. And that's always been a serious problem
14 in that neighborhood because that's a school zone.
15 It's right down the street from -- your location
16 is right down the street from Jefferson School --

17 MS. FORTATO: Right.

18 MAYOR MASSA: -- and the neighborhood
19 there from Jefferson School. And that's always
20 been a problem. But, unfortunately, when we give
21 out summonses, we give them to nice mothers who
22 are picking their kids up from school. And the
23 first thing they tell me -- they tell our cops --
24 they used to tell me, I live here. And many times
25 it's out own residents that are the biggest

1 violators. We need the people of the community to
2 focus on what they're doing to concentrate on what
3 -- on what they're doing. Because -- and the
4 police wind up giving summonses to nice mothers
5 and fathers who are picking up their kids from
6 school or a number of different reasons. So there
7 are a lot of -- these are not simple issues to
8 address. But we will have our Police Department
9 do whatever we can to address the speeding issue.

10 And, Mr. Schemp, with your complaint on
11 the County level, I was just reading in the
12 newspaper that the Bergen County Police Department
13 is looking for more work to do. So we're going to
14 give them a call to do some additional patrols on
15 -- on -- on Schuyler Avenue which is a County
16 road.

17 COUNCILMAN HUGHES: Actually point of
18 order, Mr. Mayor.

19 MAYOR MASSA: Councilman?

20 COUNCILMAN HUGHES: As far as the
21 prohibition of jake brakes, which I think Mr.
22 Schemp was referring to, I believe we can do that
23 on the local level because it's a sound violation.
24 We can --

25 A COUNCILMAN: Sure.

1 COUNCILMAN HUGHES: We can put up signs
2 there, you know, after we enact some kind of
3 violation on that. We can probably put up signs
4 on Schuyler Avenue, all jake brakes must be turned
5 off through the Borough, or whatever. So we -- we
6 will look into that for you.

7 As far as the warning lights at the EMS
8 building, I don't believe that they're non-
9 functioning. I believe that it's -- it a
10 conscious effort not to use them. We had a number
11 of problems at -- in the past when they would turn
12 to a red light after flashing for days and days,
13 and days. Everybody goes by there it's a flashing
14 yellow light, and all of a sudden it would turn
15 red and nobody would see it. We had a number of
16 accidents there. We had an ambulance hit by a car
17 because the ambulance squad was pulling out
18 thinking they had a green light, and they would
19 pull out onto Schuyler Avenue, and actually
20 somebody ran the red light and -- and hit the
21 ambulance a number of years ago.

22 It was decided at the time, as a safety
23 issue, everybody use caution. The flashing light
24 is a cautionary light so that the people coming
25 down Schuyler Avenue, the ambulance would pull out

1 and make sure everybody sees the warning lights on
2 the ambulance flashing and everything else, and
3 stop before they actually pulled out into the
4 roadway. Because when it was -- when it was set
5 up to trigger, it triggered I believe when the
6 door opened, the light would turn red on Schuyler
7 Avenue, it would turn green for the First Aid
8 Squad building. The First Aid Squad would come
9 roaring out of their building responding, and all
10 of a sudden the person said that was always a
11 yellow light. When did it turn red? And they'd
12 blow the red light.

13 We had a number of very close calls. We
14 did have a minor accident there that involved the
15 ambulance. So there was a conscious effort years
16 ago to just stop using it and use due caution
17 there at that light. And that warning light is a
18 cautionary light. Be cautious. It's supposed to
19 attract your attention to the fact that there's
20 something different here in the roadway; pay
21 attention.

22 Whether that happens or not, you know,
23 it's like everything else. Everybody is texting,
24 talking on the phone, looking at the New York
25 skyline. You know, everything else when they're

1 supposed to be driving. But there's only so much,
2 you know, anybody can do to try and get people to
3 pay attention when they're supposed to be driving.
4 So that would explain why you don't see that light
5 actually working as a red and green light when the
6 ambulance is pulling onto the roadway.

7 MAYOR MASSA: I think we ran into the
8 same problem with the Fire Department responding
9 also, Richie.

10 COUNCILMAN HUGHES: Yeah.

11 COUNCILMAN TANELLI: Point of order,
12 Your Honor.

13 MAYOR MASSA: Yes. Councilman?

14 COUNCILMAN TANELLI: Just to add onto a
15 little bit of what Councilman Hughes was saying,
16 that light was a big problem because nobody wanted
17 to take responsibility of who was supposed to fix
18 it. As a request from one of the previous Fire
19 Chiefs who wanted the light repaired, we kept
20 going back and forth with the County, and they
21 were telling us it was our problem and we needed
22 to fix it because it actually was getting struck.
23 And then it became our problem. So we fixed that
24 light at the request of the Fire Department, but
25 then they came up with the idea not to use it to

1 leave it as a blinking light.

2 But that's been working for six years,
3 seven years that it was repaired. The problem was
4 nobody wanted to take ownership because it's such
5 an outdated piece of equipment, you -- it's hard
6 to find the parts. So it was costly to repair.
7 But the County didn't want to repair it. They
8 made us repair it. I don't know if you remember
9 that, Mayor. You were sitting here when they --

10 MAYOR MASSA: I don't recall that one.

11 COUNCILMAN TANELLI: Wow.

12 MAYOR MASSA: Thank you, Councilman.
13 Keep -- keep -- keep me apprised of some of these
14 issues because there's a million of them come on
15 my desk.

16 Councilman?

17 A COUNCILMAN: Just, lastly, and then,
18 Ms. Fortato, while we're on the subject, Lyndhurst
19 has done wonders like Valley Brook Avenue when
20 you're going down west.

21 MS. FORTATO: Oh, yes.

22 A COUNCILMAN: I remember, I mean,
23 speeding down there near Chase Avenue they were
24 speeding for years. I mean, maybe like ten years
25 ago they put up a -- a radar. And it's really

1 made a huge difference. They put a radar that
2 tells you how fast you're going. And that's a
3 very cheap alternative. It's not going to cost
4 the town a lot. And also they -- they do blinking
5 stop signs and yield signs, flashing lights. When
6 people see flashing lights, and they're slowing
7 down, and they're looking.

8 So I think something like that,
9 especially that radar I think is -- I think the
10 speed bumps -- I don't know, I see them in North
11 Arlington. The ones in the Canterbury Gardens
12 that were done 50 years ago are great. You know,
13 because that -- that's a deterrent. But the ones
14 like on Hedden Terrace, the ones on -- near,
15 Steve, on Canterbury there, Councilman Tanelli,
16 the kids -- I -- I think the young drivers see
17 that and -- and they -- and it's like they're
18 going joyriding. Like let's speed up so we can
19 get the -- you know, get on that bump and --

20 MAYOR MASSA: They become air bound.

21 A COUNCILMAN: -- take a -- it's like a
22 roller coaster for them. So I don't think they're
23 -- I think they're worse. So I think the light --
24 the blinking lights or the stop signs and the
25 radar is a good -- a good idea.

1 COUNCILMAN TANELLI: Just --

2 A COUNCILMAN: Thank you.

3 MAYOR MASSA: Well, one thing we used to
4 -- Councilman?

5 COUNCILMAN TANELLI: I'm sorry. Just
6 one thing with --

7 MAYOR MASSA: No, please.

8 COUNCILMAN TANELLI: -- with the
9 blinking lights. We already had an incident with
10 a blinking light and somebody's window that came
11 up here and complained the day after it was
12 installed. So we have to use caution when putting
13 these lights -- putting these -- these blinking
14 signs by resident's homes. And make sure that
15 they're well aware of what's going on and see them
16 before they get installed. Because they're not --
17 they're not cheap.

18 MAYOR MASSA: One -- one thing I can
19 tell you from experience with traffic enforcement
20 and traffic problems, stop signs, red lights,
21 speed limits, they're for nice people that
22 generally obey the law. So don't think because we
23 do all these nice things, everybody is going to
24 obey the law. We're always going to get that
25 irresponsible driver, and there are a lot of them

1 around, who's going to violate the law. And
2 they're going to be the ones that always cause the
3 accidents and cause the problems. The issue is
4 making sure that we have our traffic enforcement
5 officers on the street as much as we can to -- to
6 do the enforcement, catch the violators, and write
7 the tickets.

8 And it seems to me that these summonses
9 are the best cure for these type of problems. We
10 could put all the stop lights, and traffic lights,
11 and everything else, but when we don't have the
12 summonses issued, and these guys don't go to court
13 and pay the 150-dollar fine, we don't seem to get
14 the public cooperation. So that's what we --
15 that's my objective to see that we have additional
16 enforcement and the summonses issued.

17 Any other Council want to comment on any
18 of the public issues? I think you gentlemen has
19 done a good job tonight. Councilmen Hughes and
20 Councilman Bianchi and Councilman Tanelli I want
21 to thank you for your input and -- and your
22 concerns about the -- the resident's problems.

23 Mr. Clerk, approval of the minutes.

24 MR. WALL: Yes, Mayor. This is approval
25 of the minutes regular meeting February 10th,

1 2011, regular meeting March 10th, 2011, and the
2 special meeting April 6th, 2011. Can we have a
3 motion?

4 MAYOR MASSA: Motion to introduce on the
5 approval of minutes for February 10th, March 10th,
6 and April 6th of 2011.

7 COUNCILMAN BIANCHI: I make that motion.

8 MAYOR MASSA: Motion by Council Bianchi.
9 Seconded by Councilman Johnson.

10 Any discussion?

11 COUNCILMAN TANELLI: Yes, Your Honor,
12 point of order.

13 MAYOR MASSA: Councilman?

14 COUNCILMAN TANELLI: Each month I look
15 at these minutes and I have questions regarding
16 the minutes. They get pulled off the agenda, but
17 each month Councilman Hughes and myself we have
18 exclusions on the bill lists of what should be
19 paid. The standing order is that he's not going
20 to pay any fire-related bills. I pull specific
21 purchase orders off that I'm not supporting, and
22 it's never reflected in the minutes. So I'm not
23 going to vote for these minutes. And -- and I'm
24 tired -- I'm personally tired of having to hold
25 off the agenda and discussing them.

1 But when I go through them, I -- I find
2 inaccuracies and I find things that I know I
3 remember because of the notes I take what's
4 omitted in the minutes. So you can pass. I'm --
5 I'm just not going to support them.
6 MAYOR MASSA: Okay.
7 MR. PEARCE: Point of order, Mr. Mayor?
8 MAYOR MASSA: Councilman?
9 MR. PEARCE: Minutes by nature are not
10 verbatim. They're -- they're basically a synopsis
11 of what transpires at the meeting and what actions
12 are taken by the Mayor and Council. We have --
13 can have -- had a tenancy to have close to
14 verbatim minutes, but the very nature of minutes
15 does not require it to be exact word-for-word what
16 everybody says. So --
17 COUNCILMAN TANELLI: I understand.
18 MR. PEARCE: Okay.
19 COUNCILMAN TANELLI: It's just though if
20 I omit something that I don't want to pay for, I
21 think that that should be in the minutes.
22 MR. WALL: If you -- I'm sorry to
23 interrupt. But --
24 MAYOR MASSA: No. Go on.
25 MR. WALL: -- it should accurately

1 reflect your vote. And if it's not, then we
2 should -- it should be pulled and -- and it should
3 be corrected. We should go over --
4 COUNCILMAN TANELLI: No. We've done it
5 every month. We've pulled them. I mean, you guys
6 can vote, but this does matter. You can call the
7 roll.
8 MAYOR MASSA: Call the roll.
9 MR. WALL: Councilman Yampaglia?
10 COUNCILMAN YAMPAGLIA: Yes.
11 MR. WALL: Councilman Bianchi?
12 COUNCILMAN BIANCHI: Yes.
13 MR. WALL: Councilman Hughes?
14 COUNCILMAN HUGHES: Yes.
15 MR. WALL: Councilman Johnson?
16 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Yes.
17 MR. WALL: Councilman Tanelli?
18 COUNCILMAN TANELLI: No.
19 MR. WALL: Councilman Kearney?
20 COUNCILMAN KEARNEY: Yes.
21 MAYOR MASSA: Resolutions on consent.
22 MR. WALL: Resolution 183-11 is a
23 resolution regarding authorization to pay claims.
24 Resolution 184-11 is a resolution
25 regarding approval of purchases over 3,000.

1 Resolution 185-11 is a resolution
 2 regarding renewal of participation in Cooperative
 3 Purchase Plan.
 4 Resolution 186-11 is a resolution
 5 regarding temporary budget amendment.
 6 Resolution 187-11 is a resolution
 7 regarding refunds Reed Center (phonetic) Tiny Tots
 8 Program.
 9 Resolution 188-11 is a resolution
 10 regarding refund of monies due to overpayment.
 11 Resolution 189-11 is a resolution
 12 regarding retirement of the Health Department
 13 Administrator.
 14 MAYOR MASSA: Motion to introduce
 15 consent agenda.
 16 COUNCILMAN TANELLI: I'll introduce it.
 17 MAYOR MASSA: Motion by Councilman
 18 Tanelli. Seconded by Councilman Yampaglia.
 19 COUNCILMAN HUGHES: Don't --
 20 Discussion?
 21 COUNCILMAN HUGHES: Don't we have more
 22 on the consent agenda?
 23 A COUNCILMAN: You got 192 and 93.
 24 MAYOR MASSA: And 94.
 25 COUNCILMAN HUGHES: There's three other

1 resolutions on the consent agenda.
 2 MR. WALL: I apologize. I'm using the
 3 draft that was provided.
 4 COUNCILMAN HUGHES: Okay.
 5 MAYOR MASSA: We have an amended agenda.
 6 COUNCILMAN HUGHES: Do you have a copy
 7 there, Terrence, or do you --
 8 MR. WALL: Yeah.
 9 COUNCILMAN HUGHES: -- want me to read
 10 it?
 11 MR. WALL: Yes, I do, Council President.
 12 A COUNCILMAN: We have to take a vote
 13 to --
 14 MR. WALL: Right. Sorry. Resolution
 15 190 --
 16 COUNCILMAN TANELLI: We have a motion
 17 and a second. Don't we have to vote it out first?
 18 MR. WALL: Make a motion to table that
 19 then so we can read the full consent agent.
 20 COUNCILMAN TANELLI: Okay. I make a
 21 motion to table it.
 22 MAYOR MASSA: Okay. Motion to table by
 23 Councilman Tanelli. Seconded by Councilman
 24 Bianchi. Call the roll on the motion to table.
 25 A COUNCILMAN: What are we tabling?

1 MAYOR MASSA: We have the consent agenda
2 and re -- reread it. If that's the appropriate
3 action, Mr. Clerk?

4 MR. WALL: All in favor?

5 COUNCILMAN YAMPAGLIA: Aye.

6 COUNCILMAN BIANCHI: Aye.

7 COUNCILMAN HUGHES: Aye.

8 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Aye.

9 COUNCILMAN TANELLI: Aye.

10 COUNCILMAN KEARNEY: Aye.

11 MAYOR MASSA: Okay. All right. Okay.
12 Resolutions on consent based upon the revised
13 agenda.

14 MR. WALL: We're adding Resolutions 192-
15 11, a resolution regarding authorizing a Risk
16 Management Consultant to secure the Group Life
17 Insurance proposal for eligible employees and
18 retirees with the Standard Life Insurance Company.

19 Resolution 193-11 is a resolution to
20 provide for the indemnification of defensive
21 actions again -- against Chief Louis Ghione.

22 Resolution 194-11 is a resolution
23 regarding approval of business licenses for the
24 year 2011.

25 MAYOR MASSA: Okay.

1 Motion to introduce the consent agenda
2 as revised.

3 COUNCILMAN TANELLI: I'll make that.

4 MAYOR MASSA: All right. Councilman
5 Tanelli. Seconded by Councilman Yampaglia.

6 Any discussion?

7 Roll the call.

8 MR. WALL: Councilman Yampaglia?

9 COUNCILMAN YAMPAGLIA: Yes.

10 MR. WALL: Councilman Bianchi?

11 COUNCILMAN BIANCHI: Yes

12 MR. WALL: Councilman Hughes?

13 COUNCILMAN HUGHES: Yes. With the
14 exception of the bills list. I recused myself
15 from Fire Department purchases because of my
16 involvement with the Fire Department.

17 MR. WALL: Councilman Johnson?

18 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Yes.

19 MR. WALL: Councilman Tanelli?

20 COUNCILMAN TANELLI: Yes. With the
21 exception of Purchase Order 258934 and Purchase
22 Order 259087. Thank you.

23 MR. WALL: Councilman Kearney?

24 COUNCILMAN KEARNEY: Yes.

25 MR. WALL: Thank you.

1 MAYOR MASSA: Ordinances.
2 MAYOR MASSA: First reading of Ordinance
3 No. 2079. This is an ordinance to amend Chapter
4 187, Section 9B of the Code of the Borough of the
5 North Arlington entitled Vehicles and Traffic.
6 It's a handicapped parking space 33 Hendel.
7 MAYOR MASSA: Okay.
8 Motion to introduce Ordinance 2079.
9 COUNCILMAN HUGHES: I'll introduce it.
10 MAYOR MASSA: Ordinance by -- introduced
11 by Councilman Hughes. Seconded by Council
12 Yampaglia.
13 Any discussion?
14 Call the roll.
15 MR. WALL: Councilman Yampaglia?
16 COUNCILMAN YAMPAGLIA: Yes.
17 MR. WALL: Councilman Bianchi?
18 COUNCILMAN BIANCHI: Yes
19 MR. WALL: Councilman Hughes?
20 COUNCILMAN HUGHES: Yes.
21 MR. WALL: Councilman Johnson?
22 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Yes.
23 MR. WALL: Councilman Tanelli?
24 COUNCILMAN TANELLI: Yes.
25 MR. WALL: Councilman Kearney?

1 COUNCILMAN KEARNEY: Yes.
2 MR. WALL: The next item is Bond
3 Ordinance No. 2080. This is a bond ordinance
4 providing for various capital improvements of the
5 Bergen -- sorry, of the Borough of the North
6 Arlington in the County of Bergen, New Jersey,
7 appropriating the aggregate amount of 850,000
8 therefore, and authorizing the issuance of 807,500
9 bonds or notes of the Borough to finance part of
10 the cost therefore.
11 MAYOR MASSA: Okay. Motion to
12 introduce.
13 COUNCILMAN HUGHES: I'll introduce that,
14 Mr. Mayor.
15 MAYOR MASSA: Introduced by Councilman
16 Hughes. Seconded by --
17 COUNCILMAN BIANCHI: I'll second it.
18 MAYOR MASSA: -- Councilman Bianchi.
19 Discussion?
20 COUNCILMAN TANELLI: Yes, Your Honor.
21 Point of order.
22 MAYOR MASSA: Councilman?
23 COUNCILMAN TANELLI: First off, I
24 received this bond ordinance spelling out what was
25 in it at ten o'clock this morning, along with the

1 amended budget. So I had to do a lot of research
 2 to find out what exactly what going to be on it.
 3 And it seems like we're buying trucks again. So
 4 we're going to have the best fleet of trucks I've
 5 ever seen in Bergen County at this rate. I mean,
 6 another \$850,000. Is there any grant money being
 7 applied to these -- this \$850,000?

8 MR. WALL: No.

9 COUNCILMAN TANELLI: Okay. Thank you.

10 MAYOR MASSA: Any further discussion on
 11 Ordinance 2080?

12 COUNCILMAN BIANCHI: Well, yes. The --
 13 the bond for the trucks is \$255,000 going toward
 14 the trucks. The rest is -- I -- I have to say
 15 that talking with McCabe on this issue, we have
 16 two trucks that the bodies are falling off --
 17 right off the frame. They have to be put back on
 18 when they're -- when they chip -- when they chip
 19 the wood and they -- it goes into the truck, we
 20 don't have a truck to do that. So we have to call
 21 in an outside company to come in to do it for us
 22 which costs us a lot of money. So if we can get
 23 that fixed.

24 Besides, snow plowing this winter, we
 25 had to rent trucks from Calli (phonetic) I would

1 imagine, and it cost us a fortune to rent these
 2 trucks a day. I don't know, Jimmy, how much was
 3 it a day to rent those trucks.

4 MR. MR CABE: A couple of hundred.

5 COUNCILMAN BIANCHI: A couple hundred
 6 dollars a day. And by the time those -- snow
 7 storms all over the place --

8 MR. MC CABE: An hour.

9 COUNCILMAN BIANCHI: Oh, an hour.
 10 Excuse me. A couple hundred dollars an hour.

11 MR. MC CABE: Yeah. It like \$3,000...

12 COUNCILMAN BIANCHI: It's an hour. I'm
 13 sorry. We rented them from the Sopranos over
 14 here. But, anyway, I -- I think the 255,000 to
 15 repair these trucks and to purchase one new truck
 16 -- I'm -- I'm not sure it --

17 COUNCILMAN HUGHES: Well, if you want,
 18 I'll explain it.

19 COUNCILMAN BIANCHI: Okay. Can you
 20 explain it?

21 COUNCILMAN HUGHES: All right. What
 22 we're --

23 MAYOR MASSA: Councilman?

24 COUNCILMAN HUGHES: -- what -- yeah,
 25 thank you, Mr. Mayor.

1 What we are going to do is we have two
2 heavy-duty dump trucks. The -- the trucks
3 themselves are in relatively good shape. The
4 bodies have deteriorated because of the salt which
5 has a -- a very adverse effect on metal. And
6 allowed the -- the bodies actually rusted to the
7 point where when they went to dump one of the
8 trucks, the dump body was actually started to
9 slide off the truck, and it was a dangerous
10 situation.

11 What we are going to be doing is
12 refurbishing two of those trucks. So we're not
13 buying new. We're going to be refurbishing them.
14 I believe it's a 35,000-dollar cost for both
15 trucks. We're going to be removing the dump body
16 from them and putting on permanent salt bodies so
17 that they'll be permanent salt spreaders. These
18 are two of the four heavy-duty dump trucks that we
19 utilize on those once every two or three-year snow
20 storms that we seem to get every other month in
21 the past year that will allow us to do the heavy-
22 duty snow plowing.

23 The other purchase of a new truck is one
24 new truck, and it's a new concept that our DPW
25 came up with or discovered. And it's basically

1 utilizing a roll-off body. Similar to a roll-off
2 dumpster-type truck. So that in the future, as
3 you need to buy new equipment, you're not buying
4 a new truck every time. You're buying just a
5 modular body. So when you need a -- a wood
6 chipper truck, when you need a salt body truck,
7 when you need a --

8 MR. MC CABE: A chipper.

9 COUNCILMAN HUGHES: A what?

10 MR. MC CABE: Chipper with a box.

11 COUNCILMAN HUGHES: Chipper truck.

12 Yeah. When you need a --

13 MR. MC CABE: A sewer truck.

14 COUNCILMAN HUGHES: -- for -- fo a sewer
15 truck for the jet rodders, when you need the
16 vacuum truck for the catch basins, you just buy
17 the module. And then you just store the module at
18 -- at the DPW. Whatever module you need, you put
19 it on this truck. You tow it up, you haul it up
20 onto the -- the skid rails like a -- like a
21 regular -- we've all seen these roll-off
22 dumpsters. And this way in the future going
23 forward it's actually going to save us a lot of
24 money because you don't have to buy a whole new
25 truck just to get the module.

1 So that was the purpose in doing this.
 2 Most of our fleet down there is well over fifteen
 3 to 20 years old and is in a very horrible state.
 4 So it's -- we have to start investing back in the
 5 infrastructure of the community, or -- or the --
 6 the town is basically going to start falling
 7 apart.

8 MAYOR MASSA: Councilman?

9 COUNCILMAN TANELLI: One other question
 10 I have about the solar repairs on the roof, do we
 11 have a cost analysis on what once the solar --
 12 after we spend what we spend what the return is
 13 going to be from the solar panels? Is there a
 14 cost analysis?

15 COUNCILMAN HUGHES: I don't have it with
 16 me. I believe the cost of the roof and the solar
 17 panels would be recouped in about nine years.
 18 There's a 20-year life expectancy on the -- on --
 19 based on today's numbers. And that's the selling
 20 of solar certificates every year at about the 50
 21 percent average. Basically they've been higher,
 22 they've been -- I think a 400-dollar certificate
 23 was it, Terence, the average?

24 MR. WALL: Depending on the market rate.

25 COUNCILMAN HUGHES: Yeah. Depending on

1 the market rate. So, like I said, it's going --
 2 the -- the cost recoup in savings will pay for the
 3 roof in about nine years. We put a lifetime roof
 4 on the building, and the solar panels have a 20-
 5 year minimum life warranty. They may go longer.
 6 And they're also modular so that you can swap out
 7 individual panels without having to replace the
 8 whole system.

9 COUNCILMAN TANELLI: Thanks.

10 MR. MC CABE: Thank you, Councilman.

11 MAYOR MASSA: Any other questions?

12 Comments?

13 COUNCILMAN BIANCHI: Yeah. There's
 14 another part of this bond too. So we might as
 15 well talk about the whole bond. Isn't there a
 16 part of this bond to fix the catch basins around
 17 the town?

18 MAYOR MASSA: Uh-huh.

19 COUNCILMAN BIANCHI: And some of the
 20 catch basins that we have around the town are
 21 really in -- they're really a mess. They've
 22 caving in. Not all of them. But quite a few of
 23 them. So -- and what was happening was, without
 24 the bond to fix all of them, what's happened it
 25 like we'd fix one, two, and we get a bill for

1 five, \$6,000, and we were -- then we're scrambling
2 for the cash.

3 So I would say it's a good idea to get
4 these catch basin fixed because I see a lot of
5 them around the town who have cones around them.
6 But if a car does go in, they're going to go right
7 down to the bottom. And it's -- it's treacherous.

8 COUNCILMAN TANELLI: Point of order.

9 MAYOR MASSA: Councilman?

10 COUNCILMAN TANELLI: Weren't we having
11 the DPW repair catch basins at one point until we
12 started getting leftover money from street paving
13 when we were having contractors then going and
14 fixing some of the catch basins? Can't we go back
15 to having the DPW start fixing the dire need catch
16 basins? Or is that something we're not going to
17 do?

18 A COUNCILMAN: Years ago when we had
19 thirty-five, 40 guys on the DPW we had some guys
20 that were masons. Nunzi (phonetic) and those
21 guys. They could get in there and they could put
22 the bricks in and rebrick it. But the guys we
23 have today, am I right or wrong, Jimmy, they're
24 not really masons. These guys have to get in
25 there and actually lay the brick inside. And --

1 have I hit it on the head?

2 MR. MC CABE: Yes. But I want -- I
3 would like to request to speak in private with all
4 of you in a while when you are done up here.
5 Because I'm tired of my department getting picked
6 on.

7 MAYOR MASSA: So noted.

8 MR. MC CABE: Thank you.

9 A COUNCILMAN: But that's one of the
10 reasons why we're -- we're doing these catch
11 basins now so we have an outside company come in
12 and fix all these catch basins and be done with it
13 instead of doing like one here, two there, and
14 like that. And we get the bill at the end of the
15 month.

16 COUNCILMAN HUGHES: Well, what we're
17 trying to also do, Mr. Mayor, again is creates a
18 pool of money or a fund of money that we can draw
19 on. Instead of every time somebody sees a catch
20 basin, a manhole, or -- or some other function in
21 the street, a cave in in the street, where one of
22 these things pops up, we're taking this money out
23 of general operating expenses. And that's been
24 part of the reason we've seen cover overruns in
25 various departments over the course -- over the

1 years.
 2 In working with our auditor and our CFO,
 3 we found out that we can bond these things, pay
 4 for them all over several years. So by creating
 5 this fund of money it's good, and so it will
 6 probably be available for at least three years
 7 we'll have it available to us to utilize. And --
 8 MR. MANGIN: At least five.
 9 COUNCILMAN HUGHES: Five years. So over
 10 five years we can utilize this fund of money to
 11 draw down off of it to fix any of these things
 12 that have to be fixed specifically. And it's not
 13 going to adversely impact the DPW budget, so that
 14 when we get to the end of the year, and we have a
 15 major snow storm, the DPW's budget is depleted
 16 because we used it to fix 22 catch basins or
 17 something in the -- in the course of the year. So
 18 it's actually just a different way of funding it
 19 that would actually in the long run be more
 20 advantageous to the Borough.
 21 MAYOR MASSA: Thank you, Councilman.
 22 Councilman, any other comments? Any
 23 discussion?
 24 Call the roll.
 25 MR. WALL: Councilman Yampaglia?

1 COUNCILMAN YAMPAGLIA: Yes.
 2 MR. WALL: Councilman Bianchi?
 3 COUNCILMAN BIANCHI: Yes
 4 MR. WALL: Councilman Hughes?
 5 COUNCILMAN HUGHES: Yes.
 6 MR. WALL: Councilman Johnson?
 7 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Yes.
 8 MR. WALL: Councilman Tanelli?
 9 COUNCILMAN TANELLI: No.
 10 MR. WALL: Councilman Kearney?
 11 COUNCILMAN KEARNEY: Yes.
 12 MR. WALL: Thank you.
 13 The next item, Mayor, would be a budget
 14 hearing.
 15 MAYOR MASSA: Budget hearing.
 16 MR. WALL: I need a motion to open --
 17 MAYOR MASSA: At this time I'll enter a
 18 motion to open the public hearing on the budget.
 19 Anyone who wishes to be heard on the budget,
 20 please come forward. State your name and address
 21 for the record. And please confine your comments
 22 to the municipal budget.
 23 MR. WALL: Can we just get a motion to
 24 open that?
 25 MAYOR MASSA: Motion by --

1 COUNCILMAN HUGHES: I'll make that
 2 motion.
 3 MAYOR MASSA: -- Councilman Hughes.
 4 Seconded by Councilman Tanelli.
 5 Call the roll.
 6 MR. WALL: Councilman Yampaglia?
 7 COUNCILMAN YAMPAGLIA: Yes.
 8 MR. WALL: Councilman Bianchi?
 9 COUNCILMAN BIANCHI: Yes
 10 MR. WALL: Councilman Hughes?
 11 COUNCILMAN HUGHES: Yes.
 12 MR. WALL: Councilman Johnson?
 13 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Yes.
 14 MR. WALL: Councilman Tanelli?
 15 COUNCILMAN TANELLI: Yes.
 16 MR. WALL: Councilman Kearney?
 17 COUNCILMAN KEARNEY: Yes.
 18 MR. WALL: Mayor, your hearing.
 19 MAYOR MASSA: Anyone wishing to be heard
 20 on the municipal budget, please come forward to
 21 make your comments. There being no one that
 22 wishes to be heard on the budget, I entertain a
 23 motion to close the hearing.
 24 COUNCILMAN HUGHES: I'll make that
 25 motion.

1 MAYOR MASSA: Motion by Councilman
 2 Hughes.
 3 Second?
 4 COUNCILMAN KEARNEY: I'll second it.
 5 MAYOR MASSA: Councilman Kearney.
 6 Call the roll.
 7 MR. WALL: Councilman Yampaglia?
 8 COUNCILMAN YAMPAGLIA: Yes.
 9 MR. WALL: Councilman Bianchi?
 10 COUNCILMAN BIANCHI: Yes
 11 MR. WALL: Councilman Hughes?
 12 COUNCILMAN HUGHES: Yes.
 13 MR. WALL: Councilman Johnson?
 14 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Yes.
 15 MR. WALL: Councilman Tanelli?
 16 COUNCILMAN TANELLI: Yes.
 17 MR. WALL: Councilman Kearney?
 18 COUNCILMAN KEARNEY: Yes.
 19 MR. WALL: Thank you.
 20 MAYOR MASSA: And I have my own comments
 21 I'd like to make on the budget at this time,
 22 gentlemen, and, Mr. Clerk.
 23 Essentially, there were a few
 24 opportunities as a governing body in which we can
 25 have a true impact on the homeowner's bottom line.

1 For many years we've heard members of this
2 governing body Mayor and Council talk about
3 reducing and even cutting the municipal tax rate
4 so that we can show residents that we mean what we
5 say when it comes to keeping North Arlington an
6 affordable place to own a home and raise a family.

7 Three years ago this governing body
8 introduced a 3.8 percent tax hike on the night of
9 the adoption of the budget. Which was ultimately
10 reduced to a zero tax hike. Most of us who were
11 here that evening agreed that reducing the
12 increase to zero would send the right message to
13 taxpayers. This was no time to increase the tax
14 levy.

15 One of my proudest moments as Mayor was
16 seeing the body work collectively and voting
17 unanimously to make that happen. Because isn't
18 that the objective here as public officials to
19 offer services at the lowest possible cost to
20 homeowners in these difficult times? Council
21 Members Tanelli, Yampaglia, Hughes, Bianchi all
22 voted in the affirmative. Republicans and
23 Democrats working together to do what was best for
24 the people of this community.

25 Tonight's modest increase in the overall

1 rate in my opinion maybe can be reduced any
2 further the same way it was reduced the night of
3 the adoption three years ago. As Mayor I believe
4 we need to make that very effort to scrub the
5 budget clean of any expenditures that can be
6 avoided, and see if any revenues fall to the
7 bottom line that can be applied to reduce the rate
8 as I've indicated.

9 In a budget of some twenty million plus
10 dollars finding several hundred thousand dollars
11 in savings is perhaps the equivalent of finding a
12 250-dollar savings in a family budget of maybe
13 \$10,000. The point's quite simple, but the
14 analogy is quite real. Maybe it can be done. I'd
15 like to see us take a -- take -- give it a try.

16 I want to congratulate our professional
17 staff for getting us to the place where we find
18 ourselves tonight. But the professionals have
19 done their job. And now it's time for the elected
20 officials to do a further review. For reducing
21 this budget further to present a zero tax increase
22 is the right thing to do in these very difficult
23 times. I think it's what we all want. I think
24 that's what taxpayers want.

25 Does everybody in this room agree with

1 me that we'd like to try to scrub this down to a
2 zero tax increase budget? A show of hands if you
3 would? I think it's pretty much unanimous in many
4 sectors. Let's face it. The seniors are hurting.
5 Young families are struggling and being asked to
6 do more with less. Private-sector employees every
7 day are seeing their benefits as well as their
8 salaries reduced. Layoffs are not the exception,
9 but they're becoming the norm. Many North
10 Arlington residents have been devastated by this
11 global recession, as well as the collapse of the
12 housing market.

13 Tonight is an opportunity for us to do
14 something worthwhile. Something bipartisan. And
15 I think bipartisan government is always what's
16 best for the community and for taxpayers. So I'm
17 asking tonight for this body to commit themselves
18 to a zero tax hike. I'd like to appoint a
19 committee of two Republicans and one Democrat,
20 along with the CFO, the Borough Administrator, and
21 the Auditor to try to reduce the budget even
22 further than it's been reduced.

23 As I said before, I congratulate our
24 professional staff for the job that they've done.
25 I believe we can do this if we have the courage to

1 do it. I believe it's important to demonstrate to
2 every homeowner that no stone was unturned in this
3 process to offer the community the most fiscally
4 responsible budget that we can formulate with
5 input from every member. Because that's not only
6 our responsibility, but it's our duty. That's why
7 we've all taken an oath to insure that this
8 community will be run in the most effective manner
9 possible, and that we can do it all together.

10 So I'm asking for a motion to entertain
11 this suggestion so that we can do just that.
12 Offer residents what they really want, which is a
13 zero tax increase budget for this year. Because
14 everywhere I go and everyone I speak to the one
15 question always remains. I'm asked by citizens
16 young and old, Democrat, Republican, and
17 independent, what are you doing to keep my taxes
18 stable?

19 So this evening we have that opportunity
20 to do what is right and to do what the people
21 expect of us to do. Quite frankly, I don't see
22 how any sitting member could oppose such an idea,
23 especially at this time. I'd like to ask for a
24 motion as well as a second so that we can amend
25 the budget so that we find the final rate to be

1 the same rate as last year's rate.

2 Is there any member of the governing
3 body wishing or willing to make that motion?

4 COUNCILMAN TANELLI: I'll make a motion.

5 MAYOR MASSA: Motion by Councilman
6 Tanelli. Seconded by Councilman Yampaglia.

7 I'd like to entertain some discussion
8 and -- and offer the opportunity to the Council
9 President to speak first.

10 COUNCILMAN HUGHES: Well, the way I
11 understand your motion is you want a motion to
12 have the budget the same as last year. Last
13 year's budget had a 10.8 percent tax increase. So
14 is that the emphasis into this motion because --

15 MAYOR MASSA: No.

16 COUNCILMAN HUGHES: -- that's what you
17 just said?

18 MAYOR MASSA: No. The purpose of the
19 motion is to give us a zero tax increase.

20 COUNCILMAN HUGHES: Well, I --

21 MAYOR MASSA: If we --

22 COUNCILMAN HUGHES: -- I

23 MAYOR MASSA: If at all possible. I'm
24 entertaining an opportunity for Council members
25 to --

1 COUNCILMAN HUGHES: Why don't you allow
2 us to introduce the amendments to the budget,
3 Mayor, and allow our professionals to explain how
4 we got there? Because, frankly, we came --
5 overcame an awful lot of difficulty just to get to
6 the point we're at now. And the amended budget
7 will reflect just some of the things that had to
8 be done in this year's budget to get to where we
9 are.

10 A zero percent increase budget sounds
11 great. But, as you know, everybody's expenses go
12 up every year. We have increased electrical
13 costs. We have increased insurance costs. We
14 have increased gasoline and fuel costs. We have
15 increased salary costs. And you get to the point
16 after seven or eight years of trimming all the
17 fat, there is no fat. So basically whatever cuts
18 you want to make now is going to be in personnel
19 or in programs. And I would suggest that you
20 allow us to introduce the amendments to the
21 current budget, and then if you allow our
22 professionals to explain how we got here.

23 MAYOR MASSA: Well, I'm going to
24 entertain a -- I have a motion with a second, so
25 I'd like to take a vote on it. And then we'll

1 introduce the -- the amended budget.
2 Is anyone interested in trying to go
3 further with this to bring it down to a zero?
4 COUNCILMAN BIANCHI: Well, can I say
5 something to start?
6 MAYOR MASSA: Councilman, sure.
7 COUNCILMAN BIANCHI: Okay. We can get
8 to a zero, but to get there, after all this work
9 that's been done on this budget, personally what I
10 believe is that we have I think 25 police officers
11 now because of all of the police officers that
12 retired. We're going to have to lay off police
13 officers. That's number one. We're down to the
14 bare minimum of protecting our town. Before we
15 had residents in here complaining about Schuyler
16 Avenue, the noise on Schuyler Avenue, and the
17 check -- check -- the truck jay braking. We had
18 another woman here complaining about speeding on
19 Hendel Avenue.
20 We need police officers. Two years ago
21 we had this problem on Schuyler Avenue. If I get
22 a little long-winded, you got to go with me.
23 MAYOR MASSA: It's quite all right.
24 That's what the process involves.
25 COUNCILMAN BIANCHI: We had this problem

1 years ago on Schuyler Avenue and with speeding
2 trucks. And what we did is we put a police
3 officer down there, Joe Scheedy (phonetic), who
4 became the police officer of Schuyler Avenue to
5 stop the trucks. And once the trucks realized
6 that there was a police officer there almost all
7 during the day hours, the trucks all slowed down.
8 Because we don't live there, so we kind of forget
9 about it.
10 We don't have a police officer that we
11 can do that. When we had 33 police officers --
12 just 33, Ridge Road, they were pulling cars over
13 on Ridge Road giving them summonses for loud
14 radios, speeding, and what sort of -- we can't do
15 that any longer because we can't afford to take
16 one police officer and let him sit on Ridge Road
17 along with the Belleville Pike. That's the
18 layoffs to the police.
19 We have two girls working in the Mayor's
20 office as secretaries. Where are we going to lay
21 off there? We have in our Building Department we
22 have two people working in that department, a
23 secretary and Robert Kairys. We have three people
24 working in the Courts. Where are we going to --
25 there's no fat to lay off anybody unless we have

1 to close and go into furlough and lay -- close --
2 like Lyndhurst is doing close the Borough -- close
3 the Borough down for no Fridays, no Thursdays, no
4 Fridays.

5 As far as the police officers go, I
6 think we're -- we're -- we're skating very, very
7 thin in starting to lay off police officers.
8 Whether it's two police officers or three to get
9 below zero. Because if we're going to go to zero,
10 then we might as well go below zero then. And the
11 town needs police officers. Right now we're down
12 to I think twenty-five or 26. If we start laying
13 off a couple more police officers, we can be in a
14 lot of trouble.

15 First of all, our overtime is going to
16 balloon. It's ballooned now our overtime. That's
17 all I have to say. I mean, I -- I would like the
18 budget presented first, and then, you know, if you
19 want we can vote on this or table it until after
20 the budget is presented. But in order to get it
21 below this 1.97 percent, I would say that we have
22 to do layoffs.

23 MAYOR MASSA: All right.

24 Councilman Yampaglia?

25 COUNCILMAN YAMPAGLIA: Mr. Mayor, so I

1 understand, to -- to appoint a exploratory
2 committee to see if we can investigate the budget
3 further to see if we can come to --

4 MAYOR MASSA: To review the budget
5 additionally.

6 COUNCILMAN YAMPAGLIA: Right.

7 MAYOR MASSA: Irrespective of public
8 safety issues. I would never support reducing
9 public safety because that's a crucial issue. The
10 issues that are were raised by Councilman Bianchi
11 just a moment ago with respect to traffic
12 enforcement on Schuyler Avenue is something that I
13 was quite familiar with because Joe Scheedy and I
14 worked in a radio car together and we made those
15 stops.

16 COUNCILMAN YAMPAGLIA: And the problem
17 stopped. But we don't have a police officer that
18 we can do that any more with.

19 MAYOR MASSA: However, there are other
20 programs, other expenditures that perhaps we may
21 want to take a second look at. This is not a hard
22 and fast proposal. It's a proposal to appoint a
23 committee to give a second look, additional look
24 at what's been done so well by the gentlemen here
25 this evening, our professionals. And by the hard

1 work that's been done by the Council President,
 2 which I'm always quick to recognize. Because he
 3 and I sat in the conference room several weeks ago
 4 going through the budget talking about different
 5 issues.

6 But in a budget of twenty-one million
 7 dollars, perhaps we could take a -- another look
 8 before we do a final adoption. That's the --
 9 that's the objective of -- of this resolution.

10 COUNCILMAN HUGHES: Well, first of all,
 11 it's not a final adoption tonight. It's an
 12 introduction of a amendment. So --

13 MAYOR MASSA: Right.

14 COUNCILMAN HUGHES: And the fact that
 15 you appointed a Finance Committee at the beginning
 16 of the year, who was charged with doing that very
 17 task, are you now saying that the Finance
 18 Committee didn't function properly?

19 MAYOR MASSA: Not at all, Council
 20 President. I'm just saying the Council --

21 COUNCILMAN HUGHES: You know --

22 MAYOR MASSA: I give the -- the Finance
 23 Committee --

24 COUNCILMAN HUGHES: I --

25 MAYOR MASSA: -- a lot of credit.

1 COUNCILMAN HUGHES: I -- let me
 2 reiterate here. Every year expenses go up. We
 3 sit here one time of the -- out of the year when
 4 we discuss the budget and everybody wants a
 5 decrease in the budget. We spend the other 11
 6 months out of the year with everybody coming up to
 7 the Council meetings saying I want my street
 8 paved. I want speed bumps installed. I want DPW
 9 to clean the catch basin in front of my house. I
 10 want the tree removed. I want this done. I want
 11 this done.

12 So we spend 11 months out of the year
 13 being asked for a high level of service.

14 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yeah. The
 15 twenty-one million dollars.

16 COUNCILMAN HUGHES: What's that?

17 MAYOR MASSA: Please.

18 COUNCILMAN HUGHES: So --

19 A COUNCILMAN: You're out of order.

20 COUNCILMAN HUGHES: So we -- we reach a
 21 point where you have to strike a balance. This is
 22 a 24-hour-a-day, seven-day-a-week, 365-day-a-year
 23 operation. We have police on duty. We have EMT's
 24 on duty. We have dispatchers on duty. We have
 25 office personnel through the course of the day.

1 You're running a corporation. If you keep cutting
2 and cutting, and cutting, which we have been doing
3 for seven or eight years, you reach a point, like
4 I said, there is no more fat. There is only
5 programs and personnel.

6 So what programs do you want to
7 eliminate and what personnel do you want to
8 eliminate?

9 MAYOR MASSA: That would be for a
10 committee to -- to examine.

11 COUNCILMAN HUGHES: Well, I think that
12 committee has already examined that.

13 MAYOR MASSA: Well, I -- I think we --
14 we owe the taxpayers another shot. And I'm -- I'm
15 giving the Council an opportunity to take that
16 second shot if -- if they wish.

17 A COUNCILMAN: I think you're
18 grandstanding, Mayor.

19 MAYOR MASSA: All right. Call the roll
20 on -- on my resolution.

21 MR. WALL: Okay.

22 Councilman Yampaglia?

23 COUNCILMAN YAMPAGLIA: Yes.

24 MR. WALL: Councilman Bianchi?

25 COUNCILMAN BIANCHI: I'll pass it.

1 MR. WALL: Councilman Hughes?

2 COUNCILMAN HUGHES: No.

3 MR. WALL: Councilman Johnson?

4 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Yes.

5 MR. WALL: Councilman Tanelli?

6 COUNCILMAN TANELLI: Yes.

7 MR. WALL: Councilman Kearney?

8 COUNCILMAN KEARNEY: (No verbal
9 response)

10 MR. WALL: Councilman Yampaglia is yes,
11 Councilman Bianchi passes, Councilman Hughes is
12 no, Councilman Johnson is yes, Councilman Tanelli
13 is yes. And Councilman Kearney, and then I would
14 go back to Councilman Bianchi?

15 COUNCILMAN BIANCHI: You can come back
16 to me.

17 MR. WALL: Councilman Bianchi?

18 COUNCILMAN BIANCHI: No.

19 MR. WALL: Councilman Kearney?

20 COUNCILMAN KEARNEY: No.

21 MR. WALL: It's a tie vote.

22 Mayor Masso?

23 MAYOR MASSO: Yes.

24 MR. WALL: The motion passes.

25 MAYOR MASSA: I'll appoint a committee

1 to review the -- review the budget further. I'd
2 like to go further with the introduction this
3 evening as scheduled on the agenda, and then we'll
4 work with the professionals to take a look at all
5 of the expenditures and revenues.

6 MR. WALL: Okay.

7 Mayor and Council, on April 6th the
8 governing body drew a -- what was then a
9 proverbial line in the sand and -- and indicated
10 that they wished to have a budget not to exceed
11 two percent from the initial introduced rate.

12 COUNCILMAN TANELLI: Excuse me, may I
13 have a point of order, Your Honor?

14 MAYOR MASSA: Point of order.

15 COUNCILMAN TANELLI: Just in relation to
16 the vote, and I don't know if this is the
17 appropriate time to say it, but I think in light
18 of the evidence of the police contracts going back
19 for reconsideration by the arbitrator, which is
20 going to save the budget money, and I think in
21 light of the fact that we don't even have our
22 professionals reporting to us before us before
23 making the motion that was just passed by Your
24 Honor and other Council people, I think it's
25 premature. And I want to put that out on the

1 record that that's why I voted no.

2 I live in this community. I pay taxes
3 in this community. I feel like I was put on the
4 spot here with regard to this motion which I did
5 not like. And although that's why I got involved
6 to begin with as a Council person is to make the
7 taxes I pay on my house and my community to go
8 down, I just think that this vote here was
9 premature and those are the reasons why I voted
10 no.

11 And I may change my opinion about where
12 we just tried to save police officers and
13 employees from being laid off so they could
14 maintain their families. And now we had our
15 professionals because I didn't do it -- we have
16 our professionals right there that are about to
17 report to us, and I think that this vote should
18 have waited for them to report to us, and we
19 should also have waited for the arbitrator to come
20 back with whatever award or whatever decision that
21 arbitrator was going to make -- was going to make
22 with regard to the police contracts.

23 So I just wanted to make sure that the
24 record reflected why my no for that particular
25 vote was a no, and I thank you.

1 MAYOR MASSA: Okay. Your comments are
2 so noted. Thank you.

3 MR. WALL: Okay. Basically, I'm going
4 to go over a couple -- a couple -- a few items,
5 and then I'll move to the -- the CFO and the
6 auditor also have some inputs.

7 The -- the amendment that is before you
8 today can be acted on. It can be approved. It
9 can be rejected. We can -- we work for you.
10 We'll -- we'll be here till midnight if you like
11 making amendments if you wanted to do them tonight
12 if you wish to change the amendment and -- and
13 introduce something different.

14 With that said, the -- on April 6th the
15 governing body directed the Administrator and the
16 Borough Attorney as well to work with the employer
17 -- rather the employee organizations to affect an
18 additional \$500,000 in cuts because the governing
19 body unanimously chose to have a budget that did
20 not exceed two percent. We met that goal.

21 The way that goal was met was not
22 simple. It was arduous. And if you see it in our
23 faces, that's how arduous it was. The last few
24 months have been exceptionally difficult and
25 interesting. But I have to tell you that all the

1 department heads really came together. I believe
2 the employees came together to their credit. And
3 all the folks that are involved in the process
4 worked extremely hard to help the governing body
5 and the Finance Sub-Committee chaired by Council
6 President Hughes.

7 I want to go over briefly a few
8 different items to touch on just to refresh your
9 memory about what's happening on a day-to-day
10 basis here. And to go over some of the
11 programming that has been changed and modified.
12 And then refer the -- the documents over to the
13 CFO to better expound on the amendment.

14 Basically, we went through every single
15 department. Every department head, every
16 employee, and essentially every program to find
17 out where we can craft a program where the Borough
18 of North Arlington, contrary to other
19 municipalities, stayed open from -- stayed open
20 for business and offered their services and goods
21 that the folks expected and deserved. With -- if
22 at all possible, the direction from the governing
23 body was to the extent we could avoid layoffs, and
24 affect a budget that is not -- not to exceed two
25 percent, that we should do that. And we did that.

1 The -- I want to go through some -- some
2 various departments. Your Finance Office is all
3 part time. The Tax Assessor is part time. Your
4 Tax Collector is part time.

5 Legal I'd like to publically thank Mr.
6 Pearce for reigning in the bills and giving us
7 outstanding legal advice. The -- the legal
8 profile, as far as your budget, has been
9 exceptionally lean, and it's very much
10 appreciated.

11 Your Planning Board and Zoning
12 Commission budget stayed very even and very low to
13 about ten or 11,000 for the year each one of them.

14 Code Enforcement has been changed to
15 increase revenues by utilizing park and violation
16 officers to help with the intake process on -- on
17 leads to -- to better maintain -- to better insure
18 maintenance of a property and to make -- to make
19 their work day being more productive for the
20 Borough.

21 The Police Department, as you know,
22 their table of organization is 34 officers. We're
23 currently at around 25. We were -- we were
24 recently at 23 due to a couple of folks that were
25 out on disability. We're back to twenty-four or

1 25 now with the table of organization of 34.

2 The EMT program and the Fire program,
3 our fire companies as you know are -- are
4 volunteer. So that -- not having a paid program
5 there is exceptionally cost effective. And you
6 folks you're very familiar with that. On the EMT
7 side we have both paid and volunteer. Both
8 working very hard. We have reigned in the
9 overtime profile on the EMT's of -- from a pay
10 perspective. We've also initiated a program where
11 we have a second ambulance able to go out on
12 calls. So that's going to increase your revenue
13 profile. It has already begun turning a profit
14 that you'll see in the -- in the out months during
15 2011 and certainly into 2012.

16 You folks may be familiar with the
17 tremendous amount of snow and the different storms
18 we've -- we've -- we've been burdened with. We've
19 had to incorporate that dynamic into the grant.
20 Our -- scratch that. While we've received FEMA
21 grant money; I believe it was \$60,000, we still
22 had a tremendous expense that we had to
23 incorporate into your budget.

24 Municipal Court, Councilman Bianchi had
25 indicated we have three full-time employees. You

1 actually have two. We had three. One is a
2 voluntary furlough. And so that -- that -- that
3 salary profile is not present or for the employee
4 benefit side for the balance of the year. So you
5 actually are running with two full-time employees
6 there. Your Municipal Prosecutor is part time.
7 Your Public Defender is part time.

8 Public Works approximately ten
9 employees, whereas, most other departments are
10 twenty, and 30, and above very similarly -- a
11 similar population town. And we have about 15,500
12 or so people here. You have roughly one full-time
13 employee for every 750 people. You probably have
14 one of the lowest ratios as far as employees --
15 and maybe it's the highest ratio perhaps actually
16 is the right term as far the deliverance of
17 services, the -- the employee pool.

18 The Health Department you had a recent
19 resignation. That -- retirement. Scratch that.
20 Retirement. Which also helps your budget this
21 year.

22 The -- the Library the CFO will discuss
23 this in greater detail, but we're recouping
24 approximately \$100,000 this year in the -- in the
25 budget through negotiations and discussions with

1 the Library, and recouping other expenses that
2 hadn't been charged there in the past, but are
3 appropriately charged without any -- any
4 diminution of services with the Library. They're
5 still offering the same level of services to the
6 public. Which will be a recurring theme.

7 North Arlington is open for business.
8 Other towns are closed.

9 The -- the pension contributions the CFO
10 will speak to that. But the -- these -- these
11 figures have gone up.

12 The Youth Center is going to end the
13 year at a profit.

14 So as on the revenue side, we've worked
15 to -- to deliver and bring revenues to the -- to
16 the Borough where we can. We changed the -- back
17 to the E -- EMS folks. We changed the third-party
18 provider, the -- the program of billing. And we
19 have already seen a dramatic increase in the
20 revenues from the new -- the new company revenue
21 guard who's processing our -- our billings. June
22 showed a 36,000-dollar deposit, which is well
23 ahead of what we had -- typically anticipate for
24 the month. And so that's just another item I
25 wanted to mention to you as well.

1 So we have gone through each and every
2 department, and worked closely with Mr. Pearce to
3 -- to connect with the employer organizations,
4 OPEIU, CWA, PBA, and to bring to the governing
5 body that which you've demanded, which was on
6 April 6th to deliver additional cuts, shared in an
7 equitable fashion amongst the various departments
8 to make sure that North Arlington stayed open for
9 business. That we continue to deliver the goods
10 and services that people demand and expect and to
11 avoid layoffs if it were fiscally responsible and
12 possible.

13 And so with that, to share with you that
14 that goal has been accomplished, as set forth on
15 April 6th, I'd like to now bring up the CFO and --
16 to discuss in more fine-grain detail the -- the
17 figures that are behind the story.

18 MR. MANGIN: Okay. Good evening. Well,
19 what I'd like to do, if it's okay --

20 MAYOR MASSA: State your name for the
21 record, please, Jim.

22 MR. MANGIN: James Mangin. You need --

23 MAYOR MASSA: You don't --

24 MR. MANGIN: -- my --

25 MAYOR MASSA: -- need to put your

1 address. Just CFO, Borough of North Arlington.

2 MR. MANGIN: Borough of North Arlington.

3 MAYOR MASSA: Thank you.

4 MR. MANGIN: Okay. What I'd like to do
5 is just to expand a little bit on -- on what
6 Terence had said on -- on how we got here. All
7 right. 2011, from a finance perspective, has been
8 a fascinating year. North Arlington in itself is
9 fascinating. North Arlington in 2011 was
10 unbelievably fascinating. You -- you really need
11 to know the journey on the part of how we got
12 here.

13 So what I'd like to do is just take a
14 couple of minutes and not explain anything that
15 you haven't already heard before, but just some of
16 the things happening at the State level and how
17 they relate to North Arlington. And some of the
18 problems in North Arlington that you people know
19 much better than I do, but how they relate to us
20 financially.

21 Starting with the two percent levy cap,
22 you know, which is new to 2011. Okay. Prior to
23 that, municipalities were prohibited from
24 increasing taxes with certain exceptions above
25 four percent. Okay. If you wanted to increase

1 taxes above four percent, what you needed to do
2 was go to the State, state your case before the
3 Local Finance Board, and they would grant you a
4 cap waiver. Okay. A two percent levy cap this
5 year, okay, but there are no cap waivers given by
6 the Local Finance Board anymore.

7 The reason I'm saying this is because
8 all of these laws were brand new. Okay. The
9 problem this year for us was that now going to the
10 Local Finance Board the alternative was a
11 referendum to the voters to go above the two
12 percent -- the two percent cap. Now for us in
13 North Arlington, last year we received \$400,000 in
14 transitional aid. Okay. It was decided that we
15 were going to apply again this year. Okay. In
16 order to apply, there are certain things that had
17 to happen. You know, don't follow these steps,
18 your application gets tossed out. And, quite
19 frankly, the State made it so that they wanted
20 applications to be tossed out. All right.

21 One of those steps that we had to do was
22 we had to proceed with a referendum in the event
23 that transitional aid didn't happen. Okay. In
24 order for that to happen, okay, we also had to
25 introduce our budget before the transitional aid

1 application could go in. The aid application
2 deadline was March 11th. We had to introduce our
3 budget by March 9th. Which didn't give us a lot
4 of time to work on the introduced budget. Okay.
5 But we were able to get it in. We were able to
6 follow all the steps for the referendum. When we
7 were denied the transitional aid, simply because
8 the program was cut back, and aid went to the
9 neediest communities.

10 They actually ranked them by -- by
11 potential tax increase, and there were communities
12 that were needier than North Arlington. Okay. We
13 cancelled the referendum. Everybody in this room
14 knows what the outcome of that referendum would
15 have been.

16 The Finance Committee we were charged
17 with -- well, I'm sorry. From there we proceeded
18 with the layoff plan, okay, following the loss of
19 transitional aid. In Finance we were given the
20 charge of bringing in a budget without layoffs,
21 without furloughs, less than two percent. And as
22 Terence indicated, that's the amendment that you
23 have.

24 But what I wanted to explain to you was
25 a little bit on how that was so difficult this

1 year. Okay. And I gave you all a handout, okay,
2 of different things that I'll be talking about
3 only because I don't want you to think that these
4 are just my opinions. They're my opinions that
5 are -- that are backed up by the data. Okay.
6 And, for instance, in the analysis I have called
7 Budget History and Trends and I wanted to explain
8 one thing about your revenue. Okay.

9 Councilman Bianchi, Councilman Hughes,
10 and Terence are 100 percent right in -- in looking
11 on the appropriation side, okay, apparent -- it's
12 apparent to me you guys have been cutting for
13 years. There's certain things, you know, CFO's
14 come in and we kind of know where the bodies are
15 buried. And in this case I'll tell you the truth
16 everything that's worked for me in other
17 municipalities has already been done here. Okay.

18 If you can't find it in appropriations,
19 you turn to revenue. Okay. The problem with us
20 in revenue is -- and according to the trends you
21 will see, for example, the loss of state aid.
22 Okay. In 2007 state aid made up ten and a half
23 percent of our revenue. Okay. 2011 that's down
24 to 5 percent. Okay.

25 The other one is the host community fees

1 for the Meadowlands Commission. Again in 2007,
2 okay, that made up eight percent of our total
3 revenue. In 2011, it's down to .7 percent.

4 And the third driver in your revenue is
5 your surplus. Okay. 2007 the surplus made up
6 three percent of our revenue. In 2011 we're down
7 to .9 percent.

8 In all, just those three items,
9 represent 21 percent of your revenue in 2007 cut
10 down to seven percent in 2011. Generally, where
11 is the difference made up? Typically, it's made
12 up in taxes. However, this year the two percent
13 cap that's made it even more difficult. For us in
14 North Arlington, and I -- and I indicated this
15 with the introduced budget, we had other obstacles
16 that we had to overcome.

17 The first was in -- in surplus. Okay.
18 Last year we anticipated 860,000. This year we
19 were left with no surplus. Okay. So what we did
20 was we got permission from the State to utilize
21 200,000 of our non-cash surplus. But still,
22 that's \$600,000 that we had last year that we
23 don't have this year. Last year 400,000 in
24 transitional aid. We didn't get that this year.
25 Okay. So now we're a million dollars in the hole

1 on the revenue side.

2 We finished 2010 with a 217,000-dollar
3 deficit. That needs to be put right into the 2011
4 budget. Now we're 1.2 million in the hole. So
5 before anything -- before we do anything, we need
6 to make up one million, two hundred thousand
7 dollars. Before -- we haven't -- we haven't done
8 anything. We haven't cut anything yet. That's --
9 that was our starting point. Okay.

10 In terms of this budget, it wasn't just
11 to get below two percent. Okay. It was also to
12 put things in place for long-term tax
13 stabilization. Quite frankly, okay, when I look
14 at North Arlington trends, you see a bit of see
15 sawing. Okay. For whatever reason. Okay.
16 What's needed in North Arlington is long-term tax
17 stabilization. Instead of these peaks and
18 valleys, we need a -- a steadier stream.

19 So we'll go through and you'll see
20 there's specific things in this budget that are
21 designed to give us that -- that steadier stream.
22 Okay. For example, Terence was just talking about
23 the -- the snow problem in 2011 which was
24 unbelievable and very significant. Okay. And it
25 was a huge problem for us. In the coming weeks,

1 you know, we're actually working on a plan to
2 address that. So we'll be talking more about that
3 soon.

4 But what I wanted to do was take you
5 through the amendment itself. Okay. There's
6 certain components to the amendment, all right,
7 that need explanation. Okay. And if you would
8 turn in your handout to Page 5, okay. This is
9 where I've got the budget appropriations summary.
10 The column that's highlighted in yellow is the
11 budget.

12 First and foremost, the -- the biggest
13 change in the budget amendment has to do with the
14 salary accounts. Okay. When we did the
15 introduced budget, okay, the introduced budget was
16 so -- so rushed. We were under such time
17 constraints, okay, that what we had to do was
18 basically take the 2010 budget, and take the 2010
19 budget as modified by transfers. We were
20 anticipating a two percent increase. Okay. And
21 without doing any real in-depth analysis, that's
22 how we came up with the salary budget for the
23 introduced budget.

24 Okay. Now would we normally budget that
25 way? No. You would never do it that way. Okay.

1 But in order to get the -- in order to get the
2 budget introduced, in order to get the application
3 for transitional aid in, it's what had to be done.
4 It was the best that we could do with the time
5 constraints that we were under. Okay.

6 Now that we've had some time, what we
7 did was we went department by department, actually
8 individual by individual, okay, looking to see
9 exactly what is -- what's needed for the salary
10 accounts. Okay. That's why you'll see a -- a
11 significant decrease in salaries from the
12 introduced budget to the amended budget where
13 we're here today. Okay. Very, very little
14 whittle room. Okay. Which you need to be aware
15 of. Okay.

16 Because what will happen toward the end
17 of the year, typically, when it's time -- when
18 it's transfer time, which is after November, a lot
19 of times you turn to your salary accounts. And
20 that's where you get your money for the transfers.
21 That will not be available this year. Okay. Not
22 with this budget. Okay. There just -- there's no
23 fat at all in the salary accounts. Okay.

24 It also means, and Terence knows this
25 well, that we have to keep a close lid on overtime

1 throughout the year. Okay. We have to. Okay.
2 We just don't have the luxury of being able to
3 appropriate as we did in the past. A lot of -- a
4 lot of things in this budget are going to fall
5 onto administration, okay, once the budget is
6 adopted. Okay.

7 In addition, in the Police Department
8 there were a number of retirees. Okay. We took
9 the retirees, the reduced salaries into account in
10 the salary -- in the police salary budget. Okay.
11 So the -- the police budget had already been
12 reduced by the salaries of those individuals that
13 are retired. Okay. If we decide at some point
14 that we need to add additional officers, that's
15 going to have to be looked at long and hard.

16 Okay. Moving on -- going on the -- just
17 to follow up with the police retirees, I just want
18 to bring your attention on Page 6, okay, the very
19 end of the bottom, the last item on the page,
20 okay, is something that I actually -- I believe
21 very strongly in. Okay. The police retirees that
22 we had this year come at a price. A policeman
23 retires, he's due a payout. Okay. Unused sick
24 leave, unused whatever, vacation, comp time.
25 Those payouts are the result of previous Council's

1 entering to contracts, you know, with the PBA,
2 officers are entitled, okay. They need to be
3 paid.

4 The liability, as of December 31st,
5 2010, in police payouts alone for North Arlington
6 was 1.9 million dollars. Okay. That's 1.9
7 million dollars that with the legislation that's
8 in effect today -- it can change, but the
9 legislation that's in effect today, that is an
10 obligation of the Borough of North Arlington that
11 you will have to pay. Okay. And as of December
12 31st, 2010 there's no funding source for it, other
13 than our regular budget. Okay.

14 We've had a number of police officers
15 retire last year and also this year. Okay. What
16 we did last year was -- the law was changed last
17 year, where you could do a special emergency
18 appropriation. Last year was for 300,000. Okay.
19 What we plan later on this year is introducing
20 another special emergency appropriation to cover
21 the retirees for 2011. That can't continue every
22 year. Okay. Those special emergency retire --
23 special emergency appropriations need to be paid
24 off in five years. Okay.

25 In 2011 we're making the first payment

1 on 2010. In 2012 we'll be making the second
2 payment on 2010 and the first payment in 2012.
3 You can see how we can't do this every year. We
4 simply can't. Okay. We'll be spending all of our
5 money on special emergencies. Okay. We need a
6 long-term plan to address that.

7 Okay. At the bottom of Page 6 you'll
8 see that what we're doing is just a continuation
9 of what the Council voted on last year. Last year
10 you voted to do a dedication by rider to establish
11 an accumulated absence trust. Okay. That was
12 what -- that was the vehicle for using your
13 special emergency. What we're proposing this year
14 is to fund it with \$50,000, which is a brand new
15 appropriation. Fifty thousand dollars won't get
16 us much in terms of police retirees, okay, but the
17 plan is to start. Okay.

18 We need to keep that in the budget.
19 Okay. Let that build up. And in time, when it
20 comes time to make a payout, we'll be paying out
21 of the trust as opposed to our own budget. The
22 reason I'm saying it is because, if you were to
23 take another long hard look at the budget, as
24 you've described, that's a very enticing item to
25 do away with. And I would strongly recommend that

1 that stays in. Okay. It honestly needs to be
2 funded even more. Okay. But \$50,000 is a good
3 starting point that really needs to stay in there.

4 Okay. The other main item in the -- in
5 the amendment, okay, have to do with insurance and
6 some additional items of revenue. Okay. But, to
7 be honest, for insurance I'd prefer if Terence
8 were to explain it since he's the one who's kind
9 of carrying the ball, if you don't mind.

10 MR. WALL: The short story on insurance
11 there is -- there's certain billing issues,
12 Medicare recalculations that were performed to
13 make sure that the -- all the bills were correct.
14 And we did a self-audit of our programming and
15 extracted sayings in that regard.

16 Also, the arbitrator recently ruled to
17 move you to a benefit program that extracts
18 savings for the period of time where it's
19 anticipated to go into force, which is October,
20 November and December of this year. And so
21 between the program being moved through the
22 arbitration process, and additionally insuring
23 that the budget amount for the employee benefit
24 side is as accurate as possible, that profile for
25 the balance of the calendar year 2011 changed to

1 your benefit.

2 MR. MANGIN: Okay. With that, in the --
3 in the budget you'll see on Page 11 that the total
4 budget appropriations are twenty million, seven
5 hundred and ten thousand, five hundred and eight
6 dollars. Okay. Which is \$268,000 less than the
7 amount that was appropriated last year. Okay.
8 That in itself is significant, given the fact that
9 there's a 300,000-dollar increase in debt service.
10 Oh, as you noticed the increase in pension was --

11 COUNCILMAN HUGHES: I think one eighty-
12 four.

13 MR. MANGIN: Is that what it -- I got to
14 tell you, I got so many numbers in my head.

15 COUNCILMAN HUGHES: One eighty-four five
16 fifty -- five thirty-five.

17 MR. MANGIN: Well, no, on both pensions.

18 COUNCILMAN HUGHES: Oh.

19 MR. MANGIN: It was actually 311,000.
20 Okay. So given those two items alone, okay, the
21 total appropriations are down 268,000, or 1.3
22 percent. Okay.

23 Moving over to revenue, which you'll see
24 on Page 12, what we did with revenue, okay, was
25 there's not a lot -- there's not a lot that we can

1 do with revenue okay, there are three additional
2 grants in the budget amendment, Municipal Alliance
3 for \$12,000, there is a Cop's Grant for \$100,000
4 which allows us to reduce the police budget by
5 \$100,000. And a Fire Department Saver Grant of
6 \$104,000. Okay.

7 In addition, okay, we also reduced the
8 amount that we're anticipating on host community
9 fees. Okay. It's where -- with six months' worth
10 of data in 2011 to look at, okay, we did a more
11 realistic approach, and we probably wouldn't hit
12 the 200,000 that we had originally intended.
13 Okay. We scaled that back to 150,000. Okay.
14 It's very important that your revenues be close
15 estimates. Okay. Because if the revenues don't
16 hit, that was part of the problem that contributed
17 to last year's deficit. Okay.

18 In addition, there's another 200,000-
19 dollar Meadowlands Pilot. Maybe Councilman Hughes
20 could explain what that amounts to.

21 COUNCILMAN HUGHES: Now?

22 MR. MANGIN: Yeah.

23 COUNCILMAN HUGHES: Okay. As you know,
24 we negotiated with the Meadowlands Commission
25 earlier this year for the old Cherokee properties

1 that were reverted back to the New Jersey
2 Meadowlands Commission to be put up for sale. We
3 negotiated with them a pilot fee of \$400,000.
4 This is equivalent to what the property taxes
5 would be on that property. And that is something
6 we've been able to book in the budget this year.

7 It's also open-ended. Because if the
8 properties do not go up for sale before the end of
9 this year, we'll be going back to the Meadowlands
10 for next year to negotiate a similar deal and a
11 similar price. So that's what that pilot fee is.
12 It's payment in lieu of taxes. It's on the BCUA
13 property and the Lucken Steel (phonetic) property
14 on Porade Avenue (Phonetic), and it's basically to
15 make North Arlington whole so we're not suffering
16 from any loss of taxes while these properties are
17 being sold and through that process.

18 I know there's been some glitches and
19 some questions as to they -- as far as when
20 they're going to be sold because there's some
21 questions as to whether the property may be
22 contamored (sic) -- contaminated or not. So
23 they're -- that's being looked into right now, and
24 that has delayed the -- the sale of these
25 properties for a short period of time.

1 MR. MANGIN: Okay. Another item of
2 revenue that I just want to talk about for a
3 second. Terence had talked before mentioned about
4 the Library, okay, which needs an explanation.
5 Okay. The state statute tells us and it defines
6 exactly what our library -- our minimum library
7 appropriation needs to be. You know, what's
8 commonly referred to as a third of a mil. Which
9 means we take our assessed value of all of the
10 property in North Arlington, and if we were to
11 take one-third of one percent, that's what the
12 library gets. Okay. And in 2011, that -- that
13 amount comes out to be 541,000.

14 Okay. Municipalities have to
15 appropriate at least that minimum for the library.
16 Okay. What's happened in North Arlington, and
17 probably unknown to you, is that you've actually
18 been over funding the library over the years. The
19 library has been getting a third of a mil
20 appropriation like they do every year. However,
21 the Borough has been paying for the health
22 benefits for library employees, when that's
23 actually an obligation of the Library. The
24 Borough has been paying for Social Security for
25 library employees. That's also an obligation of

1 the Library. And the Borough has been paying the
2 pension bill for library employees. Also an
3 obligation of the Library. Okay.

4 In addition, there was an ordinance done
5 a couple years ago where there were cost overruns
6 for the Library which was actually paid by the
7 Borough as well. That needs to be recouped as
8 well. And in all roughly, if we take the \$200,000
9 in cost overruns for the renovations, plus the
10 impact of the 2011 pension bill, 2011 health
11 benefits, and the 2011 Social Security for the
12 library employees, it's roughly it's about
13 \$400,000. Okay.

14 Now we can't withhold \$400,000 from the
15 Library. Okay. Their total budget from us is
16 541,000. Okay. If we were to withhold \$400,000,
17 the Library would close. Okay. I spoke to the
18 Library Director, this was at the direction of the
19 Finance Committee, that what we're going to do is
20 we're going to phase this in over four years.

21 Okay. So that's why you see on the
22 revenue side in 2011 we'll be withholding \$100,000
23 of the Library's appropriation. Okay. In 2012
24 what we'll do is we'll recalculate that number.
25 Okay. When we go into the State health benefit's

1 plan, the premiums will be smaller. Okay. But in
2 2012, the Library we're going to withhold half of
3 the over funding to the Library. In 2013, we'll
4 withhold three-fourths. And in 2014, the Library
5 will fully absorb all of their costs. Okay.

6 This is something that's needed. What's
7 happened with the Library, and you got to kind of
8 need to understand how this happened because it's
9 nobody's fault, okay, the Library's appropriation
10 is based on property values. As properties values
11 increased, the Library's budget increased. When
12 the Library's budget increased, the spent the
13 money. There's nothing with that. It's -- that's
14 -- that's what you do. Okay.

15 But now, since 2008, property values are
16 declining. Okay. As property values are
17 declining, their appropriation declines. Okay.
18 Of course, it's -- it's up to them, but maybe they
19 can't afford to keep the staff that they could
20 before. I think that's a decision that they have.
21 Okay. But given what we're going through right
22 now, with the two percent cap and everything else,
23 we can't afford to fully fund the Library's -- the
24 Library employees' health benefits, pensions, and
25 Social Security. Okay. That's why you'll see a

1 new item of revenue on Page 13 for \$100,000.

2 Now taken in total, the cuts on the
3 appropriation side, the new revenues, okay, and
4 you'll see the amount to be raised by taxation,
5 which is the municipal tax levy, fourteen million,
6 four hundred and sixty-seven thousand, eight
7 hundred and forty-eight dollars. Okay. So that
8 represents a 1.97 percent increase over 2010.
9 Okay.

10 A COUNCILMAN: Mr. Mangin, I don't mean
11 to interrupt you, but how many years can we go
12 back to collect whatever the municipality has paid
13 on behalf of the Library?

14 MR. MANGIN: Well, --

15 A COUNCILMAN: Or is that included in
16 what --

17 MR. MANGIN: No. Well, --

18 A COUNCILMAN: I mean, you talked about
19 2011. How about 2010, '9, '8, how far does it go
20 back?

21 MR. MANGIN: To be perfectly honest,
22 Councilman, if we could go back, okay, and you
23 probably could, but if we could go back, we could
24 also withhold more than one-fourth in 2011. You
25 know what I'm saying? It's -- it's -- as far as

1 going back 2010, 2009 I -- I'd have to find out.
2 I don't know.

3 Paul, anything?

4 MR. LERCH: I don't -- I don't think you
5 can go back only because I think that in those
6 previous years these are appropriations which were
7 authorized by the Mayor and Council. The Library
8 utilized its method for providing for their
9 operations. I think what you're talking about
10 here is you're talking about in 2011 what are the
11 amounts that we are currently paying on behalf of
12 the Library, and we're talking about the one-
13 third. And at this point, the -- the governing
14 body made a conscious decision that you would no
15 longer do that.

16 And the -- the other remaining piece was
17 the addition or the improvements that you did on
18 the Library which went above and beyond the
19 ordinance. Those you can recoup. I think as far
20 as the operating expenditures, what you paid for
21 in the previous years, I don't see how you can do
22 that.

23 COUNCILMAN TANELLI: Why is that?

24 MR. LERCH: Because, honestly, that
25 those appropriations were all approved by the

1 prior Mayor and Council either -- either through a
2 budget or through the purchase order process.

3 A COUNCILMAN: But if we didn't know,
4 whether I was here or not, which I was not back
5 like if you go more than two years, I mean, that
6 -- that doesn't matter or --

7 MR. MANGIN: No. Again, in talking with
8 the Library Director about the library's finances,
9 the library doesn't keep a whole lot of money
10 themselves. Okay. Like, for instance, if we were
11 to send them a bill like for 2010, they most
12 likely wouldn't have the cash to be able to pay
13 it. Okay. Instead, we would have to withhold
14 more of the 2011 allotment. And that's --

15 A COUNCILMAN: Well, maybe it can go on
16 for four years is what I'm saying.

17 MR. MANGIN: Well, at the end of four
18 years --

19 A COUNCILMAN: Maybe -- well, if we can
20 go back and I don't know the procedure --

21 MR. MANGIN: -- they're going to be
22 whole.

23 A COUNCILMAN: -- here if we can.

24 COUNCILMAN HUGHES: This is a process
25 where we are going to be taking -- or not taking

1 -- see, something happened back about six years
 2 ago, as far back as we've able to research this,
 3 that the library was always responsible for all of
 4 its own expenses. About six years ago there was a
 5 decision that the municipality was going to pay
 6 for the pension benefits, it was -- the
 7 municipality was going to pay for the health
 8 benefits, and the municipality was going to pay
 9 for Social Security. So these -- these expenses
 10 were shifted back to the municipal side.

11 Why it happened, I don't know. We
 12 haven't been able to establish that. Whether it
 13 was done consciously or another way, I don't know.
 14 What's been happening is though but every year in
 15 the last six years the Mayor and Council has been
 16 approving the budget with these appropriations.
 17 To go back retroactively, and now say that, no,
 18 you know, that's no good, we got to take money
 19 back, it's almost -- I don't know that it would
 20 really be legal to do that.

21 We are going --

22 A COUNCILMAN: Then it's us. It's --

23 COUNCILMAN HUGHES: We're --

24 A COUNCILMAN: So all together it's
 25 North Arlington.

1 COUNCILMAN HUGHES: No. But going --

2 A COUNCILMAN: Whether it's the --

3 COUNCILMAN HUGHES: -- forward --

4 A COUNCILMAN: -- Library or the
 5 municipality, why not?

6 COUNCILMAN HUGHES: Well, they are --
 7 they have a separate budget established by State
 8 law, they have a separate board, they have a
 9 certain agree of autonomy. Going --

10 A COUNCILMAN: It's the same pair of
 11 pants just two different pockets.

12 COUNCILMAN HUGHES: Yeah. I know.

13 MAYOR MASSA: But as the Council
 14 President expressed, --

15 COUNCILMAN HUGHES: Right.

16 MAYOR MASSA: -- it's a board with --
 17 with it's own --

18 COUNCILMAN HUGHES: You got to --

19 MAYOR MASSA: -- governance, --

20 COUNCILMAN HUGHES: Yeah. You have --

21 MAYOR MASSA: Well, the State statute
 22 provides that it -- it will be provided with --
 23 with a percentage of -- of the -- of the tax
 24 revenues.

25 COUNCILMAN HUGHES: You have to go

1 modify Title 40 I believe it is because that's
2 what establishes it.

3 A COUNCILMAN: Either 40 or 48.

4 COUNCILMAN HUGHES: Yeah. So but what
5 we're doing this -- these figures going forward is
6 in the future, after four years, they will be
7 responsible for all of their own expenses. That's
8 the procedure. The problem is to lay this all on
9 them in one year would basically shut down the
10 library. We got to give them a -- some time to
11 phase it in. We're also going back and recouping
12 for the municipality the overruns on the
13 renovations to the library. They were
14 appropriated \$200,000 to do library renovations.

15 A COUNCILMAN: How long along was that?

16 COUNCILMAN HUGHES: They spent \$400,000.

17 A COUNCILMAN: That was before I came on
18 board, right?

19 COUNCILMAN HUGHES: Yes, it was.

20 A COUNCILMAN: The year before.

21 COUNCILMAN HUGHES: Yes, it was.

22 A COUNCILMAN: So if we're back that
23 far, why can't we go back that far to --

24 COUNCILMAN HUGHES: Because they were
25 only authorized to spend \$200,000, and they spent

1 \$400,000.

2 A COUNCILMAN: Okay.

3 COUNCILMAN HUGHES: So they actually
4 overspent what they were appropriated. And that
5 we can recoup. And that's what we are -- we're
6 trying to combine it all together so that we're
7 going to recoup what they're costs are and --
8 their expenses are that the municipalities were
9 paying, and also recoup the cost overruns on that,
10 you know, renovations that they went hog wild
11 with.

12 A COUNCILMAN: Okay. I appreciate the
13 explanations. And, again, I didn't mean to throw
14 you off track, if I did, Mr. Mangin.

15 MR. MANGIN: No. (Indiscernible)

16 The last thing is, if you could turn to
17 Page 4. And, like I said, the overall increases
18 in this budget amendment are 1.97 percent over
19 last year. Okay. Now how that translates to the
20 average taxpayer, that's what Sheet 4 indicates.
21 Okay. And that needs explanation. Okay. Because
22 last year you went through a reevaluation. Okay.
23 Which -- which kind of throws the numbers off a
24 little bit. And we want to make sure that we're
25 -- we're doing an apples to apples comparison.

1 Okay. Going back to 2010, okay, you see
2 that the municipal levy, as we indicated before,
3 fourteen million, one hundred eighty-seven
4 thousand, eight hundred and thirty-seven dollars.
5 Okay. Which translated into a tax rate -- a
6 municipal tax rate, not County, not school, of
7 1.734 percent. Okay. In 2010, the average home
8 in North Arlington was assessed at \$179,300.
9 That's what it was assessed at. That's not what
10 it's worth. That's just what the assessment was
11 for that home. So last year's budget, okay, had a
12 tax impact on the average home of \$3,109. Okay.

13 Now in 2010, we go through a
14 reevaluation. Okay. In the reevaluation, okay,
15 things changed. Okay. And the overall impact of
16 the reevaluation we found that some of the
17 commercial properties, okay, were understated,
18 which means their assessed value needed to come
19 up. And some of the residential properties were
20 overstated. Their assessed values needed to come
21 down. Okay.

22 When all is said and done, the average
23 home in North Arlington, after the reevaluation,
24 is now \$319,000. The same home as 2010, it's just
25 after the reeval, it's closer to it's market

1 value, it's now \$319,000. Okay. When we take the
2 2011 tax levy that we're proposing tonight, the
3 amendment, and we apply it to that same average
4 home in North Arlington, we see the tax impact is
5 \$3,060, okay, or roughly about a 50-dollar
6 decrease from last year. Okay.

7 And it's important to understand that
8 the -- the impact of that is partially the -- the
9 reevaluation. Okay. And then the other part is
10 the two percent. Okay. But in terms of the tax
11 impact, okay, understand that's how a 1.97 percent
12 increase in your tax levy translates into a
13 decrease to the average homeowner. Okay.

14 And if anybody has any questions at all,
15 I'd be happy -- happy to answer anything. But if
16 I could just say one thing. In terms of a -- of a
17 zero tax increase, okay, one of the things you pay
18 me for is -- is my opinion. Okay. And I
19 understand fully a two -- getting the budget in
20 under two percent, getting the budget at zero,
21 okay, that's a policy decision. Okay. That's
22 your call. Okay. The governing body sets the
23 policy as Terence indicated. Our job is to follow
24 that policy. Okay. If that's what's -- if that's
25 what's chosen, I'll do everything I can, you know,

1 to -- to go about and look at anything. You know,
2 and if any Council member has any question about
3 anything, well, now I have no problem digging in
4 and getting you the answer. Okay.

5 Having said that, I do want to indicate
6 one thing. I am the Chief Financial Officer.
7 Okay. I -- I have to certify any new revenue that
8 goes into the budget. Okay. The revenue
9 estimates that are in this budget are, in my
10 opinion, very realistic. That was a problem last
11 year. Last year we missed a number of revenue
12 targets. As a result, a 217,000-dollar deficit at
13 the end of the year. Okay. Whatever is decided,
14 I need to certify any new revenues. Okay. And if
15 I don't feel that that revenue is accurate,
16 I won't certify it. Okay.

17 Having said that, again, over on the
18 appropriation side if anybody has any questions at
19 all about what is this that we're paying for, you
20 know, I'll look it up and I'll give you whatever
21 answer that needs to be. Okay. And, again, any
22 questions, I'd be happy to answer.

23 A COUNCILMAN: I have a question.
24 You've been speaking now for about a half hour.

25 MR. MANGIN: I'm sorry.

1 A COUNCILMAN: Your tax impact on an
2 average house -- let's get down to the nitty
3 gritty here, it says that in 2010 would be \$3,102,
4 2011, 3 -- \$3,060, which is a decrease of taxes on
5 a home that's valued at \$319,000, which is the
6 minimum, a decrease of \$42 per household?

7 MR. MANGIN: Yes.

8 A COUNCILMAN: Okay. I just wanted to
9 make sure I read it right. Because with all the
10 talking that was done, that's the bottom line.
11 That's what people want to hear.

12 MR. MANGIN: You have -- you have my
13 sheet, which is Sheet 4, and then you also have a
14 sheet that the auditor has prepared. And we did
15 -- it did come out to be the same number for 2011.
16 Okay. Which is \$3,060. We're slightly off from
17 2010. And that's because of value. Okay. I came
18 up with \$3,109, the auditor came up with \$3,196.
19 Oh, I'm sorry, \$3,102. I come up with \$3,109.

20 A COUNCILMAN: And the other question I
21 have is, in 2010 for every \$100 that your house
22 was worth, the tax was 1.73 cents?

23 MR. MANGIN: That's correct.

24 A COUNCILMAN: One dollar, seventy-three
25 cents. This year in 2011, for every \$100 that

1 your house is worth --
2 MR. MANGIN: Wait. Let me just stop you
3 there. When you say your house is worth, --
4 A COUNCILMAN: Well, no --
5 MR. MANGIN: -- it's what your house is
6 assessed at.
7 A COUNCILMAN: Assessed at. Okay. It's
8 ninety-six cents.
9 MR. MANGIN: That's right.
10 A COUNCILMAN: Okay.
11 MR. MANGIN: And remember, reeval
12 assessments went up.
13 A COUNCILMAN: Yes. Okay. So that's
14 how you got to a 42-dollar decrease in the
15 assessed value?
16 MR. MANGIN: Yes.
17 A COUNCILMAN: Okay. Thank you.
18 COUNCILMAN HUGHES: Mr. Mayor, maybe Mr.
19 Lerch has something to add, or does that
20 adequately cover it? It's all been said?
21 MR. LERCH: Unless you have a specific
22 question.
23 MAYOR MASSA: Well, the record will
24 reflect that Mr. -- that's Mr. Lerch making the
25 comment, our Auditor.

1 MR. WALL: The guidance we're looking
2 for, Mayor and Council, is if you would like to
3 act on this amendment, or you're going to change
4 it this evening and introduce an -- an amended
5 amendment, or some other activity this evening.
6 MAYOR MASSA: Whatever the pleasure of
7 the Council is.
8 A COUNCILMAN: May I ask one more
9 question?
10 MR. MANGIN: Sure.
11 A COUNCILMAN: If a house is assessed
12 for less than three hundred, what was it, nineteen
13 thousand, --
14 MR. MANGIN: Uh-huh.
15 A COUNCILMAN: -- say it's assessed for
16 285,000, that forty some odd dollars that your
17 house is going to -- it would be more? It would
18 be a higher --
19 MR. MANGIN: You all understand that
20 this is just the average assessed home --
21 A COUNCILMAN: Yeah.
22 MR. MANGIN: -- that 319,000.
23 A COUNCILMAN: But some --
24 MR. MANGIN: Obviously, some houses --
25 A COUNCILMAN: -- some homes are

1 assessed less.
 2 MR. MANGIN: There's some that are
 3 assessed less.
 4 COUNCILMAN HUGHES: It will be around
 5 the same.
 6 MR. MANGIN: Some that are assessed
 7 more.
 8 COUNCILMAN HUGHES: Because it's an
 9 average.
 10 MR. MANGIN: Yeah. You need to have a
 11 starting point. Again, that's what I said before
 12 about you draw an apples to apples comparison.
 13 So, typically, taking the average assessed home,
 14 it -- it's a good level way -- it's a good way to
 15 indicate the impact of Budget A versus Budget B.
 16 COUNCILMAN TANELLI: Point of order,
 17 Your Honor.
 18 MAYOR MASSA: Point of order.
 19 COUNCILMAN TANELLI: Just one legal
 20 question. I mean, Councilman Kearney brought up a
 21 good point the fact that the arbitration has been
 22 vacated, we really don't have collective
 23 bargaining agreement in our hands, which we're
 24 counting on a lot of that -- that information to
 25 base the budget on. Are we -- can -- are we in

1 good standing to move on this amendment?
 2 COUNCILMAN KEARNEY: Absolutely.
 3 COUNCILMAN TANELLI: What happens if the
 4 arbitrator should --
 5 COUNCILMAN KEARNEY: Well, it's like --
 6 it's like anything else that happens in life.
 7 Things change. You could have unanticipated --
 8 you could have unanticipated expenses, you could
 9 have -- we could settle, for example, with the --
 10 the Meadowlands Commission tomorrow on the
 11 \$550,000 that they owe us from the landfill from
 12 2008. And that would -- you know, so I mean, the
 13 budget is a -- is a fluid process.
 14 MR. LERCH: Right. This is an
 15 introduced amendment.
 16 COUNCILMAN KEARNEY: Right.
 17 MR. LERCH: It's not an adopted
 18 amendment. You introduce the amendment and goes
 19 through that process, and the scheduled vote on
 20 the amendment I believe is August 4th.
 21 A COUNCILMAN: The 4th.
 22 MR. LERCH: If something changes, and
 23 you want to introduce a modification, if the
 24 modification is minor enough, it wouldn't require
 25 an advertisement. You could actually effectuate

1 any change you want to do on the 4th and still go
2 through with the process.
3 COUNCILMAN KEARNEY: Okay.
4 MR. LERCH: (Indiscernible)
5 COUNCILMAN KEARNEY: You can modify the
6 amendment?
7 MR. LERCH: You can modify the amendment
8 as long as you meet certain criteria. You're not
9 going to modify an incorporation by plus or minus
10 ten percent. You're not going to add another five
11 percent to the budget. If you know you're not
12 going to do any decrease or in the amount that you
13 raise does not require advertisement as well. So
14 the chances are you may be able to get away
15 without having to advertise the next event.
16 A COUNCILMAN: Okay.
17 MR. LERCH: If you were to make a
18 change.
19 MR. MANGIN: In other words, if you
20 modify the amendment, and it's significant, we
21 would then have to have another public hearing.
22 MR. WALL: Right.
23 MAYOR MASSA: Okay.
24 MR. MANGIN: So then the adoption would
25 go onto the --

1 A COUNCILMAN: So we can have an
2 emergency meeting.
3 MR. MANGIN: Yeah. As long as it's ten
4 days after publication.
5 A COUNCILMAN: Okay.
6 MAYOR MASSA: As long as --
7 MR. WALL: It seems like it would work.
8 MAYOR MASSA: -- the proper
9 notifications and procedural aspects are -- are
10 followed?
11 MR. MANGIN: Yes.
12 MAYOR MASSA: This is a very dynamic
13 process. It's a complicated process. And I want
14 to -- as I said prior in my speech regarding the
15 -- the budgetary process, I want to commend the
16 professionals involved here, the Administrator
17 here and -- and our auditor.
18 A COUNCILMAN: Point of order. May I
19 ask another --
20 MAYOR MASSA: Councilman?
21 A COUNCILMAN: -- question?
22 Mr. Mangin, in listening to what you
23 have to say, you were stating that we did not
24 receive the transitional aid that we had applied
25 for because the neediest communities, and they were

1 basically ranked, are the ones that were able to
2 basically pool from that -- that transitional aid.
3 Is that accurate?

4 MR. MANGIN: Yeah. One of the things of
5 the aid application is you need to do a budget and
6 you had to indicate what the proposed tax increase
7 was. And if the municipality had proposed a tax
8 increase that was higher than ours, they were
9 ranked higher. And then the award money runs out
10 basically.

11 A COUNCILMAN: And, Mr. Wall, is this --
12 there was clean bill of health basically we got
13 from the State of New Jersey. Is that accurate?

14 MAYOR MASSA: Mr. Wall can explain the
15 fact that we have been released from the MOA in
16 the State of New Jersey because we complied with
17 the -- all of the best practices --

18 A COUNCILMAN: Requirements.

19 MAYOR MASSA: -- requirements that were
20 -- that were -- were presented to us by the
21 Department of Community Affairs.

22 A COUNCILMAN: And that's something that
23 directly related to this transitional aid that we
24 didn't get. Is that accurate?

25 MR. WALL: The -- you needed to have a

1 minimum increase of I believe it's \$250 and
2 there's per -- per average assessed home there's
3 -- and Erin Needler (phonetic) in Trenton said
4 that there were communities that had significantly
5 higher impacts proposed than ours that were also
6 denied.

7 We were denied. She indicated to me
8 strictly on those terms that we were not at a
9 level where -- where the municipalities that were
10 awarded it received it, and that municipalities
11 that were she had indicated far worse off than us
12 were also denied. They did indicate that based on
13 the -- the -- what -- there's a letter I had
14 submitted based on the -- forwarded to you from
15 Trenton, that subsequent to adopting your budget,
16 based on what they believed to be fiscal
17 stability, and good governance I would say, for
18 the full governing body, Mayor and Council, that
19 they don't believe that you need that level of
20 oversight any further.

21 And they would terminate the oversights
22 that you had which related to your professional
23 contracts, related to a host of other different
24 agreements, and general terms or conditions of how
25 we operate the business here in North Arlington.

1 They believe that, for a lack of better words,
2 you've graduated and -- onto better pastures, and
3 they would release us from any further
4 obligations.

5 A COUNCILMAN: And my point is, is that
6 it's been advertised that as a result of this
7 Council -- the majority of this Council giving
8 raises to our professionals, such as the attorney,
9 that that's why we did not get the transitional
10 aid. And I'm going to say that that publication
11 was made this N.A. Today, and -- but that is
12 inaccurate that statement. We didn't get that
13 transitional aid because they gave it to the
14 needest communities, correct?

15 MR. WALL: The --

16 A COUNCILMAN: It wasn't because we gave
17 our professionals the increases we promised to
18 give them because they took a big pay cut when
19 they came in to work for the new administration
20 when -- when Councilman Johnson and myself came
21 in. It wasn't because of that reason. It was
22 because that transitional aid was given to the
23 needest communities.

24 MAYOR MASSA: That's one of the reasons.
25 The other reason -- I was there at that meeting.

1 A COUNCILMAN: And we just got a clean
2 bill of health though.

3 MAYOR MASSA: I was at that meeting and
4 they raised a number of questions about the pay to
5 play ordinance, the raises that were given. They
6 had a number of issues that -- that they -- that
7 they questioned us about. And they never did
8 specifically tell us why we were denied. That
9 might have been one of the reasons, Councilman,
10 but not the only reason.

11 A COUNCILMAN: When we have a clean bill
12 -- bill of health, Mr. Mayor, --

13 MAYOR MASSA: Because we've complied
14 with the other requirements.

15 A COUNCILMAN: And the compliance was
16 also with regard to pay to play and whether or not
17 this majority of Council gave the pay raises to
18 raise them back up to what the people were getting
19 before Councilman Johnson and myself had come into
20 our Councilman positions.

21 MAYOR MASSA: We were late with the pay
22 to play ordinance. And they had that -- they had
23 that issue. Now the Administrator was with me
24 that day when a number of those questions were
25 raised. So they really did not specifically tell

1 us why we were denied. They did give the money to
2 other communities. And that was a complaint that
3 I had with them all along. I've made that -- that
4 -- that issue -- I made that point publicly on a
5 number of occasions. Now --

6 A COUNCILMAN: Mr. Mayor, I just -- you
7 know, and I'm not done, and I apologize, --

8 MAYOR MASSA: Oh, please, continue.

9 A COUNCILMAN: -- but I just want to say
10 that with maybe just the limited experience that I
11 have sitting on this Council, that if that clean
12 bill -- bill of health letter came in from the MUA
13 (sic) had anything to say about something being
14 done inappropriate, like the raising of our
15 professional salaries, because we kept our
16 promises to do so to raise them back to the level
17 they were before Councilman Johnson and myself
18 came into being as Council people, that MUA (sic)
19 would have stated that that action itself was
20 inappropriate and that that was a reason why we
21 did not get the transitional aid.

22 And because that letter didn't say it,
23 I'm going to suggest that that was not
24 inappropriate. And whatever that advertisement
25 from N.A. Today said is inaccurate. That's what I

1 wanted to say.

2 MAYOR MASSA: Well, I don't know
3 specifically what advertisement or what press
4 release you're referring to. I -- I would have to
5 review it. But I could tell you this. I was at
6 that meeting with DCA and they had their concerns.

7 A COUNCILMAN: And they --

8 MAYOR MASSA: They put those concerns.

9 A COUNCILMAN: -- never mentioned
10 anything about our professionals getting any
11 increases as being a reason why transitional aid
12 was refused us. It was refused us because we were
13 not ranked in the category of needest communities
14 according to the other needy communities they
15 have.

16 MAYOR MASSA: But there is no evidence
17 to suggest that those issues they raised were not
18 a factor, Councilman. Keep that in mind. They
19 may very well have been a factor.

20 A COUNCILMAN: I -- I would like to ask
21 Mr. Mangin where he got his information from about
22 the needest communities then?

23 MR. MANGIN: Understand this is -- as I
24 said, I've giving you my opinion. Okay. All
25 right. There -- I'm sure there's some type of

1 official document. Okay. And my opinion just
 2 comes from information that I gleamed from various
 3 seminars, talking to the other CFO's, and talking
 4 to officials of DCA. And, again, I'll quality it
 5 again, this is only my opinion. And I'm only
 6 offering it because I've been asked. Okay. That
 7 if you were in -- in my opinion, if you were in
 8 violation of the memorandum of understanding, the
 9 DCA would not hesitate to throw your application
 10 out. Okay.

11 Because we were told during the
 12 application process if you don't do this, your
 13 application gets tossed. Okay. They knew the
 14 program was going to be cut back, all right. In
 15 -- in my opinion again, they were looking for
 16 reasons to throw out what they could. That's just
 17 an opinion. Okay. I'm -- like I said, I'm sure
 18 there is some type of official guiding reference.
 19 Okay.

20 MAYOR MASSA: Thank you.

21 COUNCILMAN TANELLI: Point of order,
 22 Your Honor?

23 MAYOR MASSA: Councilman?

24 COUNCILMAN TANELLI: Just real quickly,
 25 everybody here knows that any -- anything coming

1 from the State of New Jersey never has specifics
 2 about anything -- about anything. We jump through
 3 hoops to try and qualify for aid, did everything
 4 they requested, and still got denied, while
 5 communities like Asbury Park hit the mother load.
 6 You know, these communities continue to get money
 7 hand over fist, while towns like ours, Lyndhurst,
 8 Rutherford, East Rutherford struggle every year in
 9 the budget process, and we beat each other up to
 10 try to get it as low as possible because that's
 11 what the taxpayers deserve, while communities like
 12 Newark, Paterson, Long Branch, Asbury, --

13 MAYOR MASSA: Camden, Trenton.

14 COUNCILMAN TANELLI: -- Camden, Trenton
 15 have built-in welfare. They're built into the
 16 budget. They don't have to go begging hand and
 17 hat for money every year. It's a disgrace. And
 18 to make us jump through hoops, and then send us a
 19 letter saying, oh, we got a clean bill of health
 20 is disgraceful.

21 MAYOR MASSA: Thank you, Council.

22 Any other comments for questions? Thank
 23 you, gentlemen.

24 Are we prepared to act on this this
 25 evening, Mr. Clerk?

1 MR. WALL: You are able to if you wish
2 to introduce it, pass it, and set the subcommittee
3 to meet immediately.

4 MAYOR MASSA: Okay.

5 MR. WALL: And if there are any
6 amendments to be considered on the support. If
7 they're not -- if they don't pass the threshold
8 test, you can pass that evening without a further
9 hearing.

10 Is that correct?

11 MR. PEARCE: That's correct.

12 MAYOR MASSA: Okay. Then we'll --

13 COUNCILMAN HUGHES: I'd like -- Mr.
14 Mayor, I'd like to say something.

15 MAYOR MASSA: Sure, Councilman.

16 COUNCILMAN HUGHES: On April 6th the
17 Council unanimously charged the Finance Committee
18 to bring a budget in under two percent. The
19 resolution that was read was Resolution 115-11,
20 which I believe everybody got a copy of in their
21 minutes tonight. It says:

22 Whereas, the Mayor and Council is -- is
23 endeavoring to adopt a Municipal Budget in 2011
24 that does not exceed two percent, and

25 Whereas, the Mayor and Council have

1 worked aggressively to enact further budget cuts,
2 and on April 6th passed a resolution cancelling a
3 public referendum to exceed budget caps, and

4 Whereas, the Mayor and Council required
5 further budget relief on behalf of the North
6 Arlington taxpayers in the amount of \$500,000.

7 And this resolution went on further to
8 tell -- to direct the Borough Administrator and
9 the Borough Attorney to sit down with our
10 collective bargaining units to ask and seek
11 concessions, and upon failure to do that, to
12 develop a layoff or furlough plan. A layoff plan
13 was developed. It was submitted to Trenton. It
14 was approved to recoup the \$500,000.

15 Well, the Finance Committee took the
16 task of the two percent requirement that was
17 unanimously voted on by this Council. We produced
18 a budget that came in below two percent. It came
19 in at 1.97 percent. And that budget, if adopted,
20 will allow us tonight to cancel all layoffs.

21 So we have a choice right now, if we
22 want to adopt this -- if we want to pass these
23 amendments, we can further pass a resolution
24 cancelling the -- the layoff plan that was enacted
25 and approved by the State of New Jersey, and

1 nobody would have to suffer any loss of job or
2 income this year.

3 So it was my recommendation that we pass
4 this ordinance. We then further take the steps to
5 pass the -- or rescind the layoff plan.

6 MAYOR MASSA: Motion to introduce?

7 COUNCILMAN HUGHES: I'll make that
8 motion.

9 MAYOR MASSA: Motion by Councilman
10 Hughes.

11 Second?

12 COUNCILMAN KEARNEY: I'll second it.

13 MAYOR MASSA: By Councilman --

14 MR. WALL: Kearney.

15 MAYOR MASSA: -- Kearney.

16 Any further discussions?

17 COUNCILMAN TANELLI: Point of order,
18 Your Honor. By doing the resolution and you take
19 the layoffs the table, what it ends up doing is,
20 if we are going to look at this, in my opinion
21 this resolution can wait until the 4th until the
22 budget is adopted so that we -- we don't limit our
23 self to anything. We have the same opportunity --
24 whoever is going to be looking at this budget, has
25 the same opportunity that the Finance Committee

1 had. So my -- my suggestion is to wait -- is to
2 table this resolution until August 4th when we act
3 on the budget.

4 MR. WALL: I believe we're -- are we
5 talking about two different votes?

6 MAYOR MASSA: Yeah. I --

7 COUNCILMAN TANELLI: I thought you --

8 MAYOR MASSA: Councilman --

9 COUNCILMAN TANELLI: You're doing the
10 amendment right now?

11 MR. WALL: Yes.

12 COUNCILMAN TANELLI: All right. I -- I
13 apologize. I apologize. I thought we were talking
14 about the resolution to take off the -- because
15 you combined them in your comments as far as
16 taking the layoff off the table. Because if we
17 do --

18 COUNCILMAN HUGHES: No. I said we could
19 do a further -- this budget was crafted, and would
20 allow us to cancel that budget or the layoff plan
21 tonight if we chose -- so choose. And by doing
22 that, we can bring some relief to our Borough
23 employees, who have been kind of sweating it out
24 and sitting on pins and needles for the last three
25 or four months wondering if they're going to have

1 a job. And that budget -- this budget under two
 2 percent, which actually brings a reduction to the
 3 average homeowner in North Arlington, will still
 4 allow us to cancel the layoffs, and not allow --
 5 so that we don't have a shortage in the Police
 6 Department, and we don't have a shortage in our
 7 administrative staff, we don't have a shortage in
 8 our DPW staff, and, you know, cutting some of the
 9 already sin (sic) -- thin level of services that
 10 we already have.

11 So I think it -- it's reckless to just
 12 prolong this any further. But I -- I've made a
 13 motion that we -- we adopt the budget amendment
 14 tonight or introduce the budget amendment tonight.

15 Mr. WALL: And seconded by Councilman
 16 Kearney. Okay.

17 MAYOR MASSA: Any further discussion?
 18 Call the roll.

19 MR. WALL: Councilman Yampaglia?

20 COUNCILMAN YAMPAGLIA: Yes.

21 MR. WALL: Councilman Bianchi?

22 COUNCILMAN BIANCHI: Yes

23 MR. WALL: Councilman Hughes?

24 COUNCILMAN HUGHES: Yes.

25 MR. WALL: Councilman Johnson?

1 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Yes.

2 MR. WALL: Councilman Tanelli?

3 COUNCILMAN TANELLI: Yes.

4 MR. WALL: Councilman Kearney?

5 COUNCILMAN KEARNEY: Yes.

6 MR. WALL: Thank you.

7 Is there consideration further of an
 8 additional resolution?

9 COUNCILMAN HUGHES: Yeah. I'd like to
 10 make a motion that we cancel the layoff plan.

11 A COUNCILMAN: So moved. I'm sorry.

12 MAYOR MASSA: Do we need a separate
 13 resolution --

14 MR. WALL: That will be --

15 MAYOR MASSA: -- on that, Mr. Clerk?

16 COUNCILMAN KEARNEY: I'll second that,
 17 Your Honor.

18 MR. WALL: -- Resolution 192-11.

19 Resolution 192-11 would be a resolution regarding
 20 layoffs.

21 MAYOR MASSA: Okay. Okay.

22 And the motion to cancel the layoff plan
 23 is that going to include motion to cancel the
 24 furlough plan also? You don't have a furlough
 25 plan because that -- we didn't have a furlough

1 included in that.
2 COUNCILMAN HUGHES: No. A furlough plan
3 would not been cost -- would not have been very --
4 very effective. If the -- if you were to develop
5 a furlough plan now, you would have to go through
6 the same procedures you did --
7 MAYOR MASSA: With this, right?
8 COUNCILMAN HUGHES: -- with the layoff
9 plan. You'd have to craft a plan and submit it to
10 Trenton, give them 30 days to approve it, and then
11 post it for 45 days. So you'd be posting your
12 furlough plan --
13 Mayor MASSA: The same process --
14 COUNCILMAN HUGHES: something in mid-
15 October.
16 MAYOR MASSA: -- under Civil Service
17 Title 11.
18 MR. WALL: Right.
19 MAYOR MASSA: Okay. Motion to cancel
20 layoff plan to be introduced --
21 COUNCILMAN HUGHES: I introduced it.
22 MAYOR MASSA: -- by --
23 COUNCILMAN KEARNEY: I seconded it, Your
24 Honor.
25 MAYOR MASSA: -- Councilman Hughes,

1 seconded by Councilman Kearney.
2 Any discussion?
3 A COUNCILMAN: Call the roll, Your
4 Honor.
5 MAYOR MASSA: Call the roll.
6 COUNCILMAN TANELLI: Mayor?
7 MAYOR MASSA: Yes, Councilman?
8 COUNCILMAN TANELLI: The same thing I
9 said earlier it could wait two weeks. There's no
10 reason to -- to do this tonight. It could wait
11 till August 4th's meeting to take it off.
12 MAYOR MASSA: There's a motion on the
13 floor, Councilman.
14 COUNCILMAN TANELLI: I understand.
15 COUNCILMAN HUGHES: Yeah. You know, --
16 COUNCILMAN TANELLI: That's my -- I made
17 my comment.
18 COUNCILMAN HUGHES: -- I think we've put
19 our employees through enough this year. I -- you
20 know, we didn't want to -- we didn't want to do
21 it. We did it regretfully. We -- we knew we went
22 into this back in April that we were coming -- you
23 know, looking at a very difficult year. I mean,
24 you look at what we started with. We had
25 increased budgetary appropriations of one million,

1 eight -- one million, eight thousand. We had loss
2 of revenue 659,000. We got that down to 248,000.

3 So we actually managed to cut one
4 million, four hundred and twenty thousand,
5 seventy-three dollars out of the budget just to
6 get to the point where we're below two percent,
7 and the average homeowner will see a reduction in
8 their taxes on their homes.

9 So to keep our -- our Borough employees
10 out there sweating any longer whether they're
11 going to have a job in a few weeks or not, I think
12 is -- is to the point where we just can't keep
13 doing it. Our -- our Police Department needs to
14 be able to schedule personnel and function
15 properly. Needs to be able to schedule vacations
16 and everything else. And they -- and everything
17 has kind of been on hold for all of our -- our
18 Borough employees who have been having this sword
19 of Damocles hanging over their head.

20 COUNCILMAN TANELLI: Point of order,
21 Your Honor. I just -- I think two weeks is not --
22 I mean, after all this time, two weeks -- I
23 totally disagree with you, Rich, to take it off
24 the table off now, no one here is -- right -- we
25 said it right from the get go nobody is here

1 looking to lay anybody off, but if we're going to
2 take a look at the budget, you can't take anything
3 off the table. You got to give it -- the people I
4 know look at the budget the same opportunities
5 that you had when you looked at it.

6 Roll call.

7 MAYOR MASSA: Thank you, Councilman.

8 Call the roll.

9 MR. WALL: Councilman Yampaglia?

10 COUNCILMAN YAMPAGLIA: No.

11 MR. WALL: Councilman Bianchi?

12 COUNCILMAN BIANCHI: Yes

13 MR. WALL: Councilman Hughes?

14 COUNCILMAN HUGHES: Yes.

15 MR. WALL: Councilman Johnson?

16 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: No.

17 MR. WALL: Councilman Tanelli?

18 COUNCILMAN TANELLI: Yes. Oh, I'm

19 sorry, no.

20 MR. WALL: Councilman Kearney?

21 COUNCILMAN KEARNEY: Yes.

22 MR. WALL: We'll do this one more time.

23 Councilman Yampaglia?

24 COUNCILMAN YAMPAGLIA: No.

25 MR. WALL: Councilman Bianchi?

1 COUNCILMAN BIANCHI: Yes.
 2 MR. WALL: Councilman Hughes?
 3 COUNCILMAN HUGHES: Yes.
 4 MR. WALL: Councilman Johnson?
 5 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: No.
 6 MR. WALL: Councilman Tanelli?
 7 COUNCILMAN TANELLI: No.
 8 MR. WALL: Councilman Kearney?
 9 COUNCILMAN KEARNEY: Yes.
 10 MR. WALL: It's a tie vote.
 11 Mayor?
 12 MAYOR MASSA: I'm going to vote to hold
 13 off on the cancellation layoff plan until we
 14 actually adopt the budget just to be on the
 15 cautious side. No one will have to worry about
 16 getting laid off between now and then, but I think
 17 as a matter of procedure I don't know I'm going to
 18 hold off on voting in the affirmative.
 19 MR. WALL: Okay. So that would be a no.
 20 So the motion fails.
 21 MAYOR MASSA: Okay. We're complete with
 22 our consent -- our regular agenda.
 23 We go to counsel reports.
 24 Councilman Yampaglia?
 25 COUNCILMAN YAMPAGLIA: Nothing tonight,

1 Mayor. I have nothing today.
 2 MAYOR MASSA: Councilman Bianchi?
 3 COUNCILMAN BIANCHI: Are we going to
 4 wait for next month to give our reports. Is
 5 everybody going to give a report tonight?
 6 MAYOR MASSA: If you want to hold off
 7 till next month --
 8 COUNCILMAN BIANCHI: Are you going to
 9 give a report?
 10 Mayor MASSA: -- that's not a problem.
 11 COUNCILMAN HUGHES: Uh-huh.
 12 COUNCILMAN BIANCHI: Well, then I'll
 13 give my report then. Okay.
 14 MAYOR MASSA: Councilman Hughes, do you
 15 want to hold off also?
 16 COUNCILMAN HUGHES: Well, I thought we
 17 -- we're only having one meeting in July, so
 18 right?
 19 COUNCILMAN BIANCHI: All right. Yeah.
 20 Let me give my report then.
 21 MAYOR MASSA: Okay.
 22 COUNCILMAN BIANCHI: My monthly report.
 23 My recreation report is on July 6th the Italian
 24 American Club presented the North Arlington girl's
 25 softball league with a check for \$1,500 for

1 repairs to their softball field. Their director
2 Jimmy Herman received the check from James Bochino
3 (phonetic), the President of the Italian American
4 Club to repair their field.

5 There's going to be a free movie night
6 Wednesday, August the 10th behind the Borough
7 Hall. Food and beverages and games are all free
8 to residents.

9 June 18th the girl's soccer -- the
10 girl's softball league played the North Arlington
11 boy's softball league, the coaches, and they had a
12 -- a crowd of about 300 people in attendance and
13 they had a great time that night.

14 The North Arlington Youth Center summer
15 recreation program, this summer's program to date
16 is extremely successful. We have the Tiny Tots
17 Program running in the morning from 8 a.m. to noon
18 where they teach the children fundamentals in
19 gymnastics. With the smaller group they have --
20 the smaller group of children they have
21 conditional arts and crafts that the kids do.

22 We also make the children have fun
23 making their own desserts. They've made ice
24 cream. Which the kids enjoyed doing. The
25 afternoon, the older children utilize the Youth

1 Center for games and outside activities.

2 We ran a successful base -- basketball
3 camp under the instructions of St. Anthony's High
4 School coaches during the week of July 11.

5 We also ran a fishing trip today, July
6 21st, \$40 per person. It included the bus and the
7 boat. I guess they're back by now.

8 We have a trip planned August the 7th to
9 the Showboat Casino for \$30 per person. And you
10 will receive \$30 in return when you get to the
11 casino.

12 There is a trip to Yankee Stadium on
13 August 11th. The cost is \$30 for adults. And if
14 you have a child playing on the North Arlington
15 Little League team it will be \$25 for your child.
16 And that's all I have.

17 MAYOR MASSA: Thank you, Councilman.
18 Councilman Hughes?

19 COUNCILMAN HUGHES: Yes, Mayor. Thank
20 you. The first thing I'd like to report on I'm
21 very happy to report that through a lot of hard
22 work on a lot of people's parts between our Fire
23 Department, our administrative staff, Mr. Wall
24 (phonetic), and Kathy Feogan (phonetic), the Fire
25 Department finally secured a piece of the World

1 Trade Center steel. Something that was a process
2 that was started about a year and a half ago
3 through a lot of court cases and everything else.
4 There was a lot of delays. We only got notified
5 recently that we were to be given a piece of this
6 World Trade Center steel.

7 That on next Wednesday, I believe, July
8 27th, the Fire Department is going to be going
9 over to Kennedy Airport with the help of Moran
10 Towing, who's been willing to donate one of his
11 trucks as -- one of his flatbed trucks to help us,
12 and we're going to be bringing back this steel to
13 the Borough of North Arlington.

14 As of this point, no memorial has been
15 designed yet because we really weren't sure we
16 were going to be getting the steel. So that
17 process is going to start shortly. It may not be
18 done for 9/11, but there will be other 9/11's
19 every year. So it's something that the Fire
20 Department was very keen on because of the Fire
21 Department's involvement at the World Trade Center
22 site on 9/11 and the weeks following. It was
23 something that they felt very strongly about. So
24 we sent in an application, and the process has
25 begun.

1 As far as EMS, they're responding
2 valiantly and excellently like they normally do.
3 Calls are up because of the summer heat problems
4 and everything. But they're rising to the task.
5 One of the things that shared services, Lyndhurst
6 recently had some problems with their ambulance
7 being out of service, and we lent them one of ours
8 while theirs was getting fixed.

9 The third thing I have is I want to
10 express my disappointment in Public Service
11 Electric & Gas. It was just last month that we
12 passed the resolution to ask them not to put up
13 these solar panels on Ridge Road which we just
14 spent hundreds of thousands of dollars in
15 upgrading the streetscape of Ridge Road, and it
16 seems like they couldn't wait to get them
17 installed. Because like within three weeks, they
18 were all over Ridge Road. And I think I'm very
19 disappointed in the cooperation because they
20 didn't reach out and talk to us about it. They
21 just went ahead and did it, and basically said,
22 you know, screw you, North Arlington.

23 So I think that needs to be noted in our
24 dealings with Public Service in the future. They
25 are an adversarial company and I don't think

1 they're definitely interested in the best interest
2 of the North Arlington.

3 And then the last thing, Mr. Mayor, as
4 has been already talked about, we have been
5 notified by the Division of Local Finance that we
6 have been given a M -- have been released from the
7 requirements of the MOU for the transitional aid
8 award that we received last year. This is good,
9 but it is upon completion and adoption of our
10 final budget. So when that takes place, it will
11 relieve our administrative staff and our finance
12 staff of a lot of reporting requirements that
13 normally a town does not have to do. So it would
14 save a lot on -- on the efforts of our
15 administrative personnel. So that's all.

16 MAYOR MASSA: Thank you.

17 COUNCILMAN HUGHES: That's all I have
18 tonight.

19 MAYOR MASSA: Thank you, Councilman.
20 Councilman Johnson?

21 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Thank you, Mayor.
22 I'm going to be quick. The Superintendent had a
23 safety meeting with the Joint Insurance Fund.
24 There was a D -- DEP inspection and the results
25 came back okay. The DPW cleared seven sewer

1 backups. They replaced 20 street signs. And in
2 accordance with the recycling program, they picked
3 up 18 televisions and three computers from 23
4 (sic) different locations. They picked up ten
5 road kills. They repaired potholes with three
6 tons of blacktop. Each day they maintained the
7 soccer, little league, and girl's softball fields,
8 and they cleaned the youth center daily.

9 Thank you, Mayor.

10 MAYOR MASSA: Thank you.

11 Councilman Kearney?

12 COUNCILMAN KEARNEY: Basically, we've
13 already discussed the budget at length. I wanted
14 to I guess be -- on behalf of all of us wish
15 Regina Gulion (phonetic) well on her retirement.
16 And that's basically all I have to say about --

17 MAYOR MASSA: Thank you, Councilman.

18 COUNCILMAN KEARNEY: -- my report.

19 MAYOR MASSA: Councilman Tanelli?

20 COUNCILMAN TANELLI: Mayor, I don't have
21 a report prepared tonight. But what I -- I wanted
22 to piggyback on Councilman Hughes' comments about
23 Public Service, and I'm wondering if -- if the
24 attorney feels a letter to the -- the BPW (sic)
25 talking about their lack of cooperation and not

1 even sitting down with us would be worthwhile.
2 The fact of the matter that they're putting all
3 these solar panels in every single town, and none
4 of the towns are reaping not a penny. And the
5 fact that they should cooperate. You know, there
6 might have been an opportunity for us to swap some
7 poles in other areas that may have been able to
8 help them out, whether it be at some of the fields
9 or some -- some other place where they could have
10 put a -- an alternate location. I'm just
11 wondering if a B -- a letter to the BPU would be
12 worthwhile, Mayor.

13 MAYOR MASSA: Thank you, Council. I
14 think that's an excellent suggestion based upon
15 what Councilman Hughes has said.

16 I'm going to direct the Borough Attorney
17 to submit such a letter. Compose it in
18 cooperation with the Borough Administrator to put
19 them on notice. Perhaps the Borough Attorney
20 could research some of the statutes, the statute
21 -- statutory authority that gives them the power
22 or the authority to -- to make these arbitrary
23 decisions of where they're going to place these
24 rather eyesore panels, and at least get us all a
25 good education as to how it got to this point and

1 make them aware that -- make the BPU aware that we
2 feel left out of the process and we're quite
3 insulted everybody in this whole process.

4 COUNCILMAN KEARNEY: Mr. Mayor, I wanted
5 to --

6 MAYOR MASSA: Yes, Council?

7 COUNCILMAN KEARNEY: -- a point of order
8 just I don't know if this really comes under my
9 report, but I was -- I picked up the Kearney
10 Observer today, and in there I see Jimmy Bochino,
11 Richard Hughes, Joe Bianchi, I guess the Italian
12 American Club they gave us that sign, and I don't
13 know, I just thought maybe I would publicly thank
14 Jimmy Bochino as being part of that being as he's
15 a resident of North Arlington.

16 And also I read in another article, and
17 his picture wasn't there, again with the Italian
18 American Club, I -- I believe that Mr. Bochino was
19 also part of contributing \$1,500 to the girl's
20 softball league which my daughter is a part of.
21 And, I mean, maybe I'm just taking it personally,
22 but I think publically that helps our girls, you
23 know, from this community. And, again, I just
24 wanted to, you know, display a -- a thanks and at
25 least on behalf of myself and as -- on behalf of

1 myself as a Council person.

2 MAYOR MASSA: Well, we presented them
3 with a plaque at the last Council meeting if you
4 recall, and I think that -- that showed our
5 appreciation to the club and to the members of the
6 club. But your --

7 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Mayor, can I --

8 MAYOR MASSA: -- comments are so noted.

9 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: -- have a point
10 also.

11 MAYOR MASSA: Councilman?

12 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Just adding on --
13 onto what John said, there was -- I know there was
14 a problem with the National Night Out Against
15 Crime. I don't think this year it was going to be
16 funded. And, once again, the Italian American
17 Club came through and -- and donated that money.
18 So we're going to have our block parties this
19 year. So --

20 COUNCILMAN KEARNEY: And Mike Petto
21 (phonetic) was involved -- I apologize to
22 Councilman --

23 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: That's okay.

24 COUNCILMAN KEARNEY: -- Johnson. Mike
25 Petto was involved with that also receiving --

1 he's a good guy, you know, leading the North
2 Arlington girl's softball league. So --

3 MAYOR MASSA: Thank you.

4 Okay. I'm going to make my report
5 brief. Essentially, the objective here is to
6 treat the community as good as we can, protecting
7 their financial interests, and giving them quality
8 service at the most economical prices that we can
9 afford with respect to operating costs and so
10 forth. And I want to just again thanks the
11 members of the Council for their -- their
12 diligence and their hard work. Irrespective of
13 differences of opinion that may -- may surface on
14 occasion, I think dialogue is healthy.

15 When the Council continually votes
16 unanimously, sometimes the public becomes a little
17 suspicious as to it being pretty much a one-man
18 band. Everybody following one leader. And I want
19 to just, again, thank the gentlemen of -- of the
20 -- of the Council for their opinions, their
21 diligent work, and their concerns for the people
22 of this community.

23 And, again, I want to thank our
24 professional staff for the work that they've done
25 in assisting us with the budget preparation, and

1 additional work that they'll be doing once we -- I
2 appoint a committee to do an additional review,
3 which I'll do shortly.

4 And I want to thank the members of the
5 public for being here tonight. Taking time out
6 from their personal lives to come and participate
7 and to complain about their -- their -- their
8 problems that they have to let us know whether or
9 not we're doing a good job or not. Because we
10 work for everybody.

11 So with that, we'll entertain a motion
12 for --

13 COUNCILMAN HUGHES: Well, point --

14 MAYOR MASSA: -- executive session. We
15 have a --

16 COUNCILMAN HUGHES: -- point of order,
17 Mr. Mayor?

18 MAYOR MASSA: Yeah. Well, I have not --
19 I didn't forget we have the engineer's report
20 before we do the executive session.

21 Sorry it took so long tonight.

22 MS. SANTOS: I'm going to try to be
23 brief. Ridge Road streetscape is substantially
24 complete. The only thing we're waiting on are the
25 site amenities. PSE&G has put their lights.

1 Obviously, there has been a little anger with
2 them, but their lights are in operation on the
3 streetscape. They will be submitting a new
4 contract for the decrease in lights that we had.
5 And DOT will be coming out to do their audit on
6 the project since it is a Federally -- excuse me,
7 funded project.

8 As far as the 2011 DOT municipal aid,
9 Belmont Avenue and Vanderbilt have been paved.
10 Concrete work is complete. Those two are for the
11 most part complete. Only cleanup and striping is
12 left on them.

13 Sunset has begun with the concrete work.
14 Paving is scheduled for Wednesday of next week.
15 They anticipate the project to be closed out by
16 the end of the month.

17 The DPW storage tanks that was submitted
18 to DEP for review, we still haven't gotten
19 anything back from them.

20 The municipal lot Melraise (phonetic)
21 wall the survey is complete. We're going to be
22 given a design on the wall for that, and,
23 hopefully, be presenting that shortly and go out
24 to bid.

25 The 147 William Place light we've

1 discussed. Now that DNL is not on the site, and
2 doing the other work on Sunset Ave, they're going
3 to go there next to try and alleviate that ponding
4 issue. One of the things that did come up at the
5 meeting was there was a complaint for the concrete
6 directly across the street from that. We did go
7 take a look at it. It appears that that was
8 previous to any construction work. But if the
9 complaint comes again, we'll have to address it
10 then.

11 The CDBG grant application, Fifth
12 Street, Brandenburg, and Union we've begun design
13 on that. Actually presented pairings with a cost
14 estimate to discuss a little bit further. We did
15 have Jim McCabe come out with the Meadowlands
16 truck to televise the sanitary sewers to see if
17 there were any breaks. Unfortunately, the camera
18 broke down, so that really didn't help us much.
19 So as soon as we get that back up and running,
20 we'll see if there's anything that needs to be
21 repaired prior to any paving operations.

22 The 223 Rutherford Place was actually --
23 there's a letter attached to the back of your
24 report. It's the Youth Center fence. There was a
25 break that was brought up by a resident. We went

1 out and got fixed locations for that. We sent out
2 three bid solicitations. We got one response back
3 in the amount of \$2,892. So at this point we just
4 need direction on it from Council what to do if
5 you would like to proceed and have that work
6 authorized to get that fence fixed.

7 The 2001 mineshaft monitoring survey has
8 begun. That they are very close to being done.
9 And we anticipate that at the next Mayor and
10 Council meeting we'll have more to report on that.

11 Holy Cross Cemetery sidewalks have
12 begun. They anticipate two more weeks on the
13 Ridge Road side, and then three weeks on the Tyler
14 Avenue side. They'll be putting two pockets
15 parts, and putting the pavers in. So that's their
16 portion of the project.

17 Ridge -- I'm sorry. River Road paving
18 has begun. They've done all the milling
19 operations. Paving should take a week. We're
20 hoping that by the end of the month that project
21 will also be done.

22 One of the projects that started that
23 really doesn't have anything to do with us, but
24 it's within the Borough, is Passaic Valley is
25 coming in to do their water main improvements.

1 They're putting in a 12-inch transition line
2 through several -- several of the streets. I have
3 been coordinating with Councilman Hughes to get a
4 few more fire hydrants installed along those
5 limits. And they've been very helpful and
6 accommodating to us.

7 And the last project is Mid State
8 Construction and we really haven't gotten any
9 activity on that. That is my report.

10 MR. WALL: Okay.

11 Mayor and Council, the one item we -- we
12 would like direction on tonight, if possible, the
13 CDBG Grant for Fifth Street, Brandenburg Place,
14 and Union Place is approximately \$90,000. The
15 estimates to do all the work is 349,000. So the
16 question quickly becomes, which street would you
17 like to do? Unless you would like to bond for the
18 rest, which is obviously a different philosophical
19 discussion.

20 The immediate question is, if we're
21 expending the -- the ninety or so thousand
22 dollars, if you did the base bid, we have it
23 currently constructed as a base bid with Fifth and
24 Brandenburg and an Alternate A is Union. Unless
25 you prefer the base bid being Union, and then, you

1 know, mixing up the alternates however you wish.

2 But we have approximate -- call it
3 100,000 to work with, definitely ninety. The
4 grant would then cover 80 percent of Fifth and
5 Brandenburg, if you wish. Or it can cover 50
6 percent of Union. Unless you wish to fund it.
7 And which goes back to budgeting. But it depends
8 on what you --

9 COUNCILMAN HUGHES: How long is the
10 grant available for?

11 MR. WALL: We need to expedite this
12 grant. It's an older grant.

13 COUNCILMAN HUGHES: It's an older grant?

14 MR. WALL: Yeah. We'd like to move on
15 it.

16 A COUNCILMAN: I think Brandenburg is
17 probably in the worse condition of all three of
18 those streets.

19 MAYOR MASSA: Yeah. I'd have to agree
20 with him. Brandenburg is really in need of --

21 A COUNCILMAN: It's an old cement
22 street. It's all cracked up.

23 MR. WALL: The way we have it set up
24 right now is the base bid of Fifth and
25 Brandenburg, which is 135,000, which the grant

1 would be approximately 90,000, and we would need
2 to fund a small balance. And then an alternate
3 bid of Union. Now the bids have been coming back
4 spectacular, which is why the concept of doing a
5 greater amount of road work because of the -- the
6 way the contractors are pricing it is worth
7 considering. But that said, the base bid it's --
8 the final base bid is 135,000. We would not at
9 all be surprised if it comes in at a hundred or at
10 -- at an area where there's a very modest
11 contribution.

12 A COUNCILMAN: Terrence?

13 MAYOR MASSA: Councilman?

14 A COUNCILMAN: On Fifth Street you --
15 you got a -- you go with that camera in the main
16 sewer line you have two breaks in it. So you go
17 to hit that in there somewhere.

18 COUNCILMAN HUGHES: The price just went
19 up. Question. We had a bond last year for paving
20 that -- that they're actually appropriating now on
21 Sunset, Belmont, and Vanderbilt, based on the bid
22 prices, does it look like maybe Mr. Mangin you can
23 ask if we're going to have any money left in that
24 bond that we could utilize for paving.

25 MR. MANGIN: I don't -- I don't know off

1 the top of my head.

2 COUNCILMAN HUGHES: Maybe we could
3 explore that possibility and see if we already
4 have money in that bond from --

5 MR. MANGIN: Okay.

6 COUNCILMAN HUGHES: -- last year. If
7 the prices came in lower, maybe we can utilize,
8 you know, any monies left over in that bond.

9 MR. WALL: Right. Well, then the -- the
10 main question for us is administratively do you
11 have -- is there one street that shines more than
12 any -- like do you mind -- do you have a strong
13 opinion how we mix and match the base -- the bid
14 and base bids?

15 A COUNCILMAN: Brandenburg is the worse.

16 MR. WALL: All right. Well, that's in
17 the base bid currently. If you had a strong
18 feeling that Union had to be part of the main
19 project, then we would switch it over. Otherwise,
20 we'll go out with what we have.

21 COUNCILMAN HUGHES: I know Union is a
22 mess too, but, you know, a lot of our streets are
23 a mess. So it's just pick one.

24 MR. WALL: All right. So we're going to
25 go out with this. Okay. Just that's the

1 direction that she needs on that. And the other
2 item, unless there's any objection, we will go
3 ahead with the work at 28-92 subject to
4 certificate of funds on 223 Rutherford Place to
5 affect the -- the repairs from the gentleman who
6 has been here several times.

7 MAYOR MASSA: Do we have a motion on
8 that?

9 A COUNCILMAN: Do we need a resolution
10 on it?

11 MR. WALL: No. It's under 3,000.

12 A COUNCILMAN: So we can get -- you --
13 we can get started on that right away?

14 MS. SANTOS: As soon as it's signed,
15 we'll send it over to the contractor.

16 A COUNCILMAN: Okay.

17 MR. WALL: We just wanted to bring to
18 you first.

19 A COUNCILMAN: Yeah.

20 MR. WALL: Thank you.

21 MS. SANTOS: Just one other thing that I
22 remembered. I know trees are a big issue. We did
23 have to take one tree down on the Sunset Avenue
24 portion of the road program that we're doing to
25 accommodate the handicap ramp. And also to --

1 (indiscernible) a little bit of that handicapped
2 ramp that was installed on the other road. On
3 Sunset we did have to install two additional
4 handicapped ramps at the T intersections. That's
5 DOT compliance. Lately, the ADA ramps have become
6 a really big issue, so we're trying to comply as
7 much as we can. It is a DOT grant. We get to put
8 those ramps in. So that's why one of the trees
9 had to come down. It's not fun, but that's what
10 had to be done.

11 MR. WALL: And, just briefly, during
12 this -- during the fall typically we have a
13 tremendous amount of requests to remove trees.
14 The process has gotten somewhat haphazard over the
15 years. Is there -- can there be some consensus on
16 any request goes to one administrative person --

17 A COUNCILMAN: Well, --

18 MR. WALL: -- as -- because what happens
19 is we end up getting multiple requests which --
20 which it -- which throws DPW off their mark
21 because we have healthy trees that have a request
22 to be removed, when it's not indicated, and then
23 we -- which -- so we're not able to get to the --
24 the trees that need to be taken down. And then
25 we're -- then the budget just busts.

1 A COUNCILMAN: Yeah. We should work off
2 of a budget.

3 MR. WALL: And --

4 A COUNCILMAN: Start -- start with the
5 budget whatever the budget is.

6 MR. WALL: Well, --

7 A COUNCILMAN: The minimal budget.

8 COUNCILMAN BIANCHI: You and I will run
9 that committee.

10 MR. WALL: Yeah. Initially --

11 A COUNCILMAN: Yeah.

12 Mr. WALL: Initially we set up --
13 Councilman Bianchi and myself because we wanted to
14 take some --

15 COUNCILMAN BIANCHI: Burden off --

16 MR. WALL: -- of the burden off --

17 COUNCILMAN BIANCHI: -- of Jimmy.

18 MR. WALL: -- off of Mr. McCabe because
19 people were demanding that he do it. So we wanted
20 to bring it up a level. And the only time Mr.
21 McCabe would handle it is if it was an emergent
22 situation that had to be taken care of right away
23 obviously. I don't know if you want to --

24 COUNCILMAN HUGHES: I think the policy
25 we also discussed at that meeting, and I don't

1 know if we ever adopted it, was the fact that we
2 would not be spending money or appropriating town
3 money to take down healthy trees.

4 MR. WALL: Right.

5 COUNCILMAN HUGHES: The plan was to use
6 that money and appropriate that money for trees
7 that are in danger, trees that are diseased, trees
8 that need to be removed, trees that have been
9 damaged by lightening or storms to handle those.
10 But to take down a healthy tree, I -- you know, I
11 don't think the town should be involved. We don't
12 have -- we have a limited amount of budget.

13 COUNCILMAN TANELLI: Well, we also -- we
14 also talked about at that meeting where homeowners
15 were having issues getting certification from
16 their insurance companies due to the fact that the
17 sidewalk was damaged by the tree. And Mr. McCabe
18 had a company that he presented to us then. We
19 didn't -- never acted on it. But they come in and
20 they take care of the tree.

21 COUNCILMAN HUGHES: We've already used
22 them a couple of times.

23 COUNCILMAN TANELLI: Okay. Well,
24 officially we haven't like put together where they
25 were -- we were going to tell people. But that's

1 great that they're using them.
2 MAYOR MASSA: What's the name of that
3 company? It's --
4 MR. MC CABE: Sidewalk --
5 (indiscernible)
6 MAYOR MASSA: Yeah. Sidewalk --
7 MR. MC CABE: Just for the record, so
8 far I haven't cut any trees down that were
9 healthy.
10 MAYOR MASSA: Now who -- who is paying
11 for that, the homeowner, or we are?
12 A COUNCILMAN: Sidewalk safety.
13 MR. WALL: The -- our ordinance --
14 A COUNCILMAN: Are we picking up the tab
15 for that?
16 MR. WALL: We've -- we've begun a modest
17 program -- a very modest program of addressing
18 some of the more extreme tripping hazards --
19 A COUNCILMAN: Uh-huh.
20 MR. WALL: -- in the Borough that are
21 directly related and proximate to trees that are
22 Borough owned. The -- the -- the problem we're
23 dealing with is that you have Borough-owned trees
24 that are uplifting sidewalks. It's in every
25 community. And ordinances where the burden is on

1 the owner to fix their sidewalk. Which we then
2 would, frankly, need to be from a code enforcement
3 standpoint issuing probably 500 citations. Maybe
4 1,000.
5 At the same time, my understanding from
6 a legal perspective, is that the Borough shares
7 some liability in -- in what I read from the
8 statutes. So you're in this quandary where it's
9 the responsibility of the owner, however, it's a
10 Borough tree that is uplifting a sidewalk. And
11 we're not citing the owner for basically the issue
12 created by the Borough -- Borough tree.
13 And so we end up with this situation
14 where we're trying to engage in a modest program
15 of addressing within strict physical constraints
16 the -- the greater -- some of the more extreme
17 trip hazards that we have.
18 COUNCILMAN HUGHES: Couldn't we utilize
19 the money that we have appropriated in this bond
20 for various Public Works projects to maybe
21 appropriate some of that money for some of the
22 sidewalk issues?
23 MR. WALL: The language --
24 COUNCILMAN HUGHES: I thought it said
25 not limited to.

1 MR. WALL: We could review that and have
2 an answer by the hearing.
3 MAYOR MASSA: And the Public Works
4 Director will refer all requests from citizens
5 directly to him to the Administrator's office so
6 that we can have some semblance of order as to how
7 these requests are being made so that you're not
8 put on the spot.
9 MR. MC CABE: All requests.
10 A COUNCILMAN: There you go.
11 MAYOR MASSA: Because I know people will
12 call you up and they'll tell you get this fixed.
13 MR. WALL: Well, just --
14 A COUNCILMAN: (Indiscernible)
15 MR. WALL: Well, just in general, if I
16 don't mind saying so, if the tree is healthy, the
17 answer is going to be no --
18 A COUNCILMAN: Right.
19 MR. WALL: -- unless I'm further
20 directed. So in the event someone is upset that
21 the tree is not removed because they don't like
22 the berries, or some other issue, or what have
23 you, the answer is going to be no. So if there's
24 feedback where somebody, you know, is upset about
25 that, if you want to change the direction. But

1 from now moving forward if it's a healthy tree,
2 the answer will be no. And that will also help
3 your budget and the trees, notwithstanding the --
4 (indiscernible).
5 A COUNCILMAN: Save the trees.
6 MR. WALL: Thank you.
7 A COUNCILMAN: Thank you, Stephanie.
8 MS. SANTOS: Thank you.
9 MAYOR MASSA: Anybody have anything
10 else?
11 MR. WALL: Okay. Thank you. Resolution
12 191-11, a resolution regarding executive session.
13 Whereas, the Open Public Meetings Act,
14 Chapter 231, permits the exclusion of the public
15 from a meeting in certain circumstances, and
16 Whereas, the Mayor and Council is of the
17 opinion that such circumstances presently exist,
18 Whereas, the Mayor and Council wishes to
19 discuss personnel and collective bargaining,
20 participate in pending litigation. Public release
21 of -- public discussion will only occur after
22 Council approval. Action may or may not occur
23 after discussion.
24 May I have a motion, please?
25 MAYOR MASSA: Motion to introduce to

1 executive session --
2 COUNCILMAN TANELLI: I'll make it.
3 MAYOR MASSA: -- by Councilman Tanelli,
4 seconded by Councilman Yampaglia.
5 Call the roll.
6 MR. WALL: Councilman Yampaglia?
7 COUNCILMAN YAMPAGLIA: Yes.
8 MR. WALL: Councilman Bianchi?
9 COUNCILMAN BIANCHI: (No verbal
10 response)
11 COUNCILMAN HUGHES: He's indisposed at
12 the moment.
13 MR. WALL: Excused.
14 Councilman Hughes?
15 COUNCILMAN HUGHES: Yes.
16 MR. WALL: Councilman Johnson?
17 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Yes.
18 MR. WALL: Councilman Tanelli?
19 COUNCILMAN TANELLI: Yes.
20 MR. WALL: Councilman Kearney?
21 COUNCILMAN KEARNEY: Yes.
22 MR. WALL: Now, therefore, be it
23 resolved that the Mayor and Council are now in
24 executive session. Thank you.
25 (Off-the-record executive session)

1 MAYOR MASSA: Back on the record.
2 MR. WALL: We're back on the record.
3 COUNCILMAN TANELLI: I make a motion to
4 go back to regular business.
5 COUNCILMAN YAMPAGLIA: I second that.
6 MAYOR MASSA: Motion to Councilman
7 Tanelli to return to the regular order of
8 business. Seconded by Councilman Yampaglia.
9 Call the roll.
10 MR. WALL: All in favor?
11 COUNCILMAN YAMPAGLIA: Aye.
12 COUNCILMAN BIANCHI: Aye.
13 COUNCILMAN HUGHES: Aye.
14 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Aye.
15 COUNCILMAN TANELLI: Aye.
16 COUNCILMAN KEARNEY: Aye.
17 MR. WALL: Opposed? Carried.
18 COUNCILMAN TANELLI: I make a motion to
19 adjourn.
20 MAYOR MASSA: Okay. Motion to adjourn.
21 However, in the meantime, Tanelli, Johnson, and
22 Yampaglia will be on the Budget Review Committee.
23 Take a vote on adjournment.
24 MR. WALL: The motion to adjourn was --
25 MAYOR MASSA: Motion by Tanelli.

1 Seconded by Yampaglia.

2 MR. WALL: All in favor?

3 COUNCILMAN YAMPAGLIA: Aye.

4 COUNCILMAN BIANCHI: Aye.

5 COUNCILMAN HUGHES: Aye.

6 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Aye.

7 COUNCILMAN TANELLI: Aye.

8 COUNCILMAN KEARNEY: Aye.

9 MAYOR MASSA: All in favor. I'll

10 adjourn.

11 (Meeting concluded)

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1 CERTIFICATION

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3 I, Charlene P. Scognamiglio, the
4 undersigned transcriber, do hereby certify that
5 the foregoing transcript of the proceedings before
6 the Borough of North Arlington Mayor and Council
7 on July 21, 2011, CD No. 7/21/11, Index Nos.
8 7:07:27 p.m. to 10:05:05 p.m., and Index Nos.
9 11:19:29 p.m. to 11:20:11 p.m., is prepared in
10 full compliance with the Transcript Format for the
11 Judicial proceedings, and is a true and accurate
12 compressed transcript of the proceeding.

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18 Charlene P. Scognamiglio, AD/T #478
19 TAPE REPORTERS, INC.

20
21
22 Date: 10/24/11
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25