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BERGEN COUNTY  
BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS  
HACKENSACK, NEW JERSEY  
WORK SESSION  
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 27, 2016  
COMMENCING AT 4:36 P.M.

FREEHOLDERS PRESENT:

- STEVEN A. TANELLI, CHAIRMAN
- TRACY S. ZUR, VICE CHAIRWOMAN
- DAVID L. GANZ
- DR. JOAN M. VOSS
- MAURA R. DeNICOLA
- THOMAS J. SULLIVAN

FREEHOLDERS ABSENT:

- JOHN A. FELICE, CHAIRMAN PRO TEMPORE

KIM O. FURBACHER, C.C.R., R.M.R.  
P.O. BOX 213  
ROCHELLE PARK, NEW JERSEY 07662-0213  
201-226-9218

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ALSO PRESENT:

LISA SCIANCALEPORE  
CLERK TO THE BOARD

JAMES J. TEDESCO III  
BERGEN COUNTY EXECUTIVE

MICHAEL BELLUCCI  
DEPUTY COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

DR. DOMINIC J. NOVELLI  
COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

EDWARD J. FLORIO, ESQ.  
COUNSEL TO THE BOARD

GURBIR GREWAL  
ACTING BERGEN COUNTY PROSECUTOR

JARED LAUTZ  
DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS & POLICY

JOHN DANUBIO  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS & POLICY  
and DIRECTOR OF POLICY RESEARCH

KIM O. FURBACHER, C.C.R., R.M.R.  
P.O. BOX 213  
ROCHELLE PARK, NEW JERSEY 07662-0213  
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I N D E X

PAGE NO.

4:38 PM THE AMERICAN KENNEL CLUB

6

Deborah Yankow, Director  
Animal Shelter & Adoption Center

4:41 PM PRESENTATION TO WINNER AND  
RUNNER UP OF THE NORTH JERSEY SPELLING BEE

5

Rimas Chacar-Palubinskas

4:49 PM REVIEW OF RESOLUTIONS

8

4:51 PM PUBLIC COMMENT

9

Gerry Drummond

10

4:54 PM BUDGET PRESENTATION

12

Joseph Luppino, CFO  
County Treasurer

Caesar Guerra  
Director of IT

1                   CHAIRMAN TANELLI: Good afternoon,  
2 everybody. The meeting is called to order.

3                   Before we begin our meeting, I'd ask  
4 everyone to please take a minute to silence their  
5 phones.

6                   Thank you.

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

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

21                   CHAIRMAN TANELLI: Please call the  
22 roll.

23                   (At this point in the proceeding roll  
24 call is taken with Freeholders DeNicola, Ganz,  
25 Sullivan, Voss, Vice-Chairwoman Zur, and Chairman

1 Tanelli present, with Freeholder Felice absent.)

2 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: Please rise for the  
3 Pledge.

4 Prosecutor, if you would please lead  
5 us.

6 (At this point in the proceeding all  
7 rise for a recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance,  
8 led by Acting Prosecutor Gurbir Grewal.)

9 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: Please remain  
10 standing for a Moment of Silence.

11 We'd like to observe a Moment of  
12 Silence in honor of Teaneck Mayor Lizette Parker.

13 Ms. Parker was the first  
14 African-American woman to be elected a mayor in a  
15 Bergen County municipality. She passed away Sunday  
16 morning. She worked for 21 years as a caseworker for  
17 the Bergen County Board of Social Services, most  
18 recently as a social worker supervisor.

19 She has extensive ties to her community  
20 and community organizations, including: The National  
21 Association of Negro Business and Professional  
22 Women's Club Inc.; the National Coalition of 100  
23 Black Women Bergen/Passaic Chapter; the Bergen County  
24 branch of the NAACP; and the Bergen County chapter of  
25 Mocha Moms Inc.

1                   Our thoughts and prayers are given to  
2 Mrs. Parker's husband, Anthony; their daughter,  
3 Alyssa; and their entire family.

4                   (Whereupon a Moment of Silence is  
5 observed.)

6                   CHAIRMAN TANELLI: Thank you.

7 4:38 PM PRESENTATION: THE AMERICAN KENNEL CLUB:

8                   CHAIRMAN TANELLI: I am just going to  
9 change things up a little bit today.

10                   We're going to have two presentations.  
11 Because of the budget presentation, we're going to do  
12 them before we do our normal business.

13                   So we're going to first start with,  
14 we'd like to recognize the American Kennel Club in  
15 appreciation of the donation of an AKC Pet Disaster  
16 Relief Unit trailer for the County of Bergen.

17                   I know everyone was outside. We all  
18 had an opportunity to look at it and take pictures.  
19 And the one thing you can say about Bergen County is,  
20 we always seem to be the most prepared for  
21 everything, and that's a great thing. We can  
22 respond. Now we have even more equipment to respond  
23 to any disaster. We hope we don't have anymore in  
24 the future, but when we do, we want to make sure  
25 we're ready to help not just humans, but now we help

1 pets too.

2 We've given the resolution to Deb. She  
3 likes animals.

4 Whereas, the American Kennel Club Pet  
5 Disaster Relief Unit can provide protection and  
6 support to displaced pets and service animals in the  
7 event of a natural or man-made emergency or disaster,  
8 and

9 Whereas, the Bergen County Office of  
10 Emergency Management has accepted said AKC Pet  
11 Disaster Unit offered by the AKC Reunite to assist  
12 the Bergen County Animal Response Team (CART) in  
13 providing shelter to displaced pets and service  
14 animals in the event of a man-made emergency or  
15 disaster, and

16 Now, therefore, be it resolved that the  
17 Bergen County Board of Chosen Freeholders  
18 acknowledges the generous donation of: The Doberman  
19 Pincher Club of the Tappan Zee, The Eastern German  
20 Shorthaired Pointer Club, New Jersey; the New Jersey  
21 Federation of Dog Clubs; the Northern New Jersey  
22 Great Dane Club; Ramapo Kennel Club; Somerset Hills  
23 Kennel Club; American Bullmastiff Association;  
24 English Setter Association of America; Field Spaniel  
25 Society of America; Newfoundland Club of America; The

1 Spinone Club of America; The United States Australian  
2 Shepherd Association; and the Taconic Hills Kennel  
3 Club, and recognize all the tireless dedication and  
4 efforts on behalf of people and animals of Bergen  
5 County.

6 Deb, do you want to accept another  
7 resolution?

8 MS. YANKOW: They're coming off the  
9 elevator. I believe they made a wrong turn.

10 4:41 PM PRESENTATION: WINNER AND RUNNER-UP OF THE  
11 NORTH JERSEY SPELLING BEE:

12 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: We'll move on to the  
13 second one.

14 Everyone sees the big trophy on the  
15 table. We're also here to recognize the spelling bee  
16 winner, Rimas Chacar-Palubinskas.

17 I have the certificate in honor of the  
18 2016 Bergen County New Jersey Spelling Bee Contest.

19 He's going to be representing us in  
20 Washington.

21 (Applause.)

22 (Whereupon, the presentations are  
23 made.)

24 4:49 PM REVIEW OF RESOLUTIONS:

25 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: Okay. Will the

1 Clerk please read the resolutions on the consent for  
2 today.

3 MS. SCIANCALEPORE: Sure.

4 Resolutions 465-16 through 467-16.

5 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: Can I have a motion?

6 FREEHOLDER VOSS: So moved.

7 FREEHOLDER GANZ: So moved.

8 FREEHOLDER VOSS: Second.

9 FREEHOLDER DeNICOLA: Second.

10 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: Please call the  
11 roll.

12 (At this point in the proceeding roll  
13 call is taken and Resolutions 465-16 through 467-16  
14 are passed by a vote of six in favor, with Freeholder  
15 Felice absent.)

16 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: Just quickly, I'd  
17 like to ask everybody if we can do at least #466 and  
18 #467 as a Body of the Whole sponsoring that?

19 MS. SCIANCALEPORE: #467?

20 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: Yes.

21 MS. SCIANCALEPORE: Okay.

22 4:51 PM PUBLIC COMMENT:

23 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: Now we'll go back.  
24 We will now have our budget presentation.

25 All right. In the meantime, can I have

1 a motion to open the meeting to the public?

2 FREEHOLDER GANZ: So moved.

3 VICE-CHAIRWOMAN ZUR: Second.

4 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: All in favor?

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

7 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: Opposed?

8 (No response.)

9 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: The ayes have it.

10 We will now have a Hearing of the General Public,  
11 with a three minute time limit in effect.

12 The Board Attorney will keep the time.

13 Anybody wishing to speak to the Board?

14 Gerry.

15 MR. DRUMMOND: Gerry Drummond, retiree  
16 from the county.

17 I'm just here to learn what our new  
18 budget is, what our County Executive is planning at  
19 this point, you know, for everybody. And so we can  
20 all work together, the citizens, the union. We've  
21 got great union representation here right now. They  
22 may want to speak, I don't know.

23 MR. RUSSELL: Not at this time.

24 MR. DRUMMOND: Kenny Russell is the  
25 blue-collar president for Local 265.



1 4:54 PM BUDGET PRESENTATION:

2 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: We will now have a  
3 budget presentation by the County Executive.

4 Welcome.

5 COUNTY EXECUTIVE TEDESCO: Thank you,  
6 Mr. Chairman. I'm glad to be here today.

7 Today I present the proposed budget for  
8 fiscal year 2016.

9 I'm going to take some time to go into  
10 some detail this year on the budget and some areas of  
11 the budget, so that the Freeholders and the public  
12 gets an understanding of why and how the budget was  
13 crafted and that the budget is a budget of and for  
14 the taxpayers of Bergen County.

15 Bergen County towns are geographically  
16 diverse, and the needs and expectations of our  
17 constituents reflect that diversity.

18 The budget must strike a balance  
19 between providing the quality services Bergen County  
20 residents expect, fulfilling the obligations the  
21 county is legally obligated to meet, and being  
22 fiscally responsible on behalf of the taxpayers.

23 This budget provides a broad array of  
24 the necessary operations and services, and builds  
25 upon the work we've done over the past year.

1                   I want to take some time now to  
2 highlight the work that county tax dollars support  
3 and thank our county employees for the service they  
4 provide the people of Bergen County.

5                   First and foremost, the county works  
6 together across departments to keep us safe.

7                   The Office of Emergency Management  
8 coordinates responses to emergency events with all  
9 relevant county departments, which include Public  
10 Works, Law Enforcement, Health, Human Services, and  
11 many others, as well as effective municipal  
12 governments, statewide agencies, and nonprofit relief  
13 organizations.

14                   While we hope that there are no  
15 large-scale emergency situations, Superstorm Sandy  
16 taught us that we have to be prepared.

17                   Led by OEM, every department  
18 responsible for all aspects of emergency response not  
19 only engages in routine drill scenarios to practice  
20 using the latest protocols in technology, but also  
21 provides preparedness instruction to members of the  
22 public through programs like Community Emergency  
23 Response Teams (CERT), MRC (Medical Reserve Corps),  
24 or CART, like the hats that you have in front of you,  
25 the Community Animal Response Team.

1                   The Law and Public Safety Institute  
2                   trained more than 4,000 firefighters, more than 3,000  
3                   police officers, and nearly 500 EMS responders last  
4                   year.

5                   The Office of Consumer Affairs and  
6                   Protection enhanced its investigative and enforcement  
7                   capabilities over the last year.

8                   Since I took office, we have recovered  
9                   more than \$350,000 for consumers, and generated more  
10                  than \$400,000 in fines from businesses that fail to  
11                  follow consumer protection laws.

12                  Under the previous administration, in  
13                  2014, this department did not report a single dollar  
14                  recovered for consumers, nor did it issue a single  
15                  fine or enforcement action to any business.

16                  The recent launch of our Consumer  
17                  Affairs Tip Line should help us increase the amount  
18                  recovered for our constituents and help us expand our  
19                  education efforts, so that more businesses understand  
20                  the responsibilities before an issue arises.

21                  I just want to take a minute to make  
22                  everyone understand that we also are pro-business,  
23                  this administration, and so our objective is to  
24                  educate, not to penalize, but to educate people and  
25                  the businesses. And so that's what you just heard as

1 part of our 2016 initiative, is going to be to  
2 educate the businesses on the laws that they must  
3 comply with.

4 In 2015, Public Safety's Emergency  
5 Communications Team responded to approximately  
6 250,000 911 and non-emergency calls, providing  
7 dispatch services on behalf of the Sheriff's Office,  
8 Prosecutor's Office, and 22 municipalities.

9 Technology upgrades increased the  
10 efficiency of the Operations Center, allowing more  
11 efficient emergency response.

12 Today, we are in discussions with other  
13 municipalities throughout Bergen County to look at  
14 adding them to our 911 or potentially dispatch their  
15 police, fire, EMS and DPWs.

16 Beyond the Department of Public Safety,  
17 the Department of Planning and Engineering and the  
18 Department of Public Works ensure that the county  
19 roads are safe for public travel.

20 The county Department of Planning &  
21 Engineering, which is new this year, that you all  
22 approved as a change to the county code, oversaw 27  
23 major bridge repairs, 17 minor bridge repairs,  
24 repaired or replaced more than 1,000 signals, and  
25 maintained traffic signals and pedestrian walks

1 across the entire county walkways and roadways.

2 Public Works is tasked with maintaining  
3 the 439 miles of county roads that connect all of our  
4 communities. They are on-call 24 hours a day, and  
5 throughout the year must re-pave, repair, re-stripe  
6 our roads, bridges, culverts, and catch basins. They  
7 fill thousands of potholes on county roads and are  
8 our first line of defense when a snowstorm hits.

9 Public Works also provides for safe  
10 transportation for seniors and people with  
11 disabilities through the Division of Community  
12 Transportation.

13 Last year, Community Transportation  
14 provided 441,889 trips to doctors' offices, places of  
15 employment, schools, county nutrition centers, and  
16 other locations to help 14,752 county residents  
17 maintain their daily routines within their  
18 communities. Quite extraordinary numbers for the  
19 Community Transportation group.

20 The Department of Public Works is also  
21 home to the Mosquito Control, which works  
22 hand-in-hand with the Department of Health to protect  
23 the public and help the public protect themselves.

24 Throughout the county, they work  
25 together to reduce or eliminate the population of

1     mosquitos through water management and other  
2     environmentally-friendly best practices.

3                     The work they do to prevent  
4     mosquito-borne illness is considered to be so  
5     innovative that our Director of Health Services was  
6     invited by the CDC as one of just 300 public health  
7     officials worldwide to participate in the global Zika  
8     Summit earlier this month.

9                     This is just one of many aspects of our  
10    county Health Department's effort to promote health  
11    and wellness among all of our residents.

12                    The county Public Health Office  
13    provides health and safety inspections at all  
14    county-owned facilities where food or drink is  
15    served, including the county parks, its golf courses,  
16    the county schools, county colleges, and county  
17    nursing home.

18                    Through shared service agreements, the  
19    Health Department acts as health inspectors for 34  
20    Bergen communities.

21                    Shared service agreements also provide  
22    28 towns with bloodborne pathogen training and  
23    tracking, 31 towns with sanitation services, and 18  
24    towns with annual flu and pneumonia vaccines.

25                    Similarly, the county Animal Shelter

1 works with 38 Bergen County towns to provide animal  
2 control services. In the course of this work, the  
3 shelter cares for recovered animals that have been  
4 abused, neglected, or otherwise mistreated, as well  
5 as animals whose owners are simply unable to care for  
6 them anymore.

7 The shelter makes every effort to  
8 rehabilitate these animals and support their  
9 successful adoption.

10 The county Health Department helps us  
11 support the most vulnerable Bergen County residents.

12 Through the Office of Public Health  
13 Outreach, we provide free cancer screenings for  
14 residents who are uninsured or who are underinsured.

15 Residents struggling with mental health  
16 issues or substance abuse have the supportive  
17 programs with the Division of Mental Health and  
18 Office of Addiction.

19 These issues go hand-in-hand, because  
20 they both are subject to stigma that just doesn't  
21 exist for physical illnesses. The stigma prevents  
22 struggling residents from seeking care and support  
23 that they need, and ultimately can negatively impact  
24 our communities as a whole.

25 The Stigma-Free initiative continues to

1 grow, as more towns join our countywide effort to  
2 support education and awareness about mental health  
3 and mental illness.

4 I just want to say thank you to the  
5 Freeholder Board, because this Freeholder Board was  
6 the first Freeholder Board to enact the countywide  
7 Stigma-Free plan, and that's something that's now  
8 being done throughout the state, but this county led  
9 the way in that.

10 We are working to ensure that people  
11 feel comfortable seeking the help that they need and  
12 that their loved ones recognize the sign of mental  
13 illness and have the resources to help.

14 The Mental Health Law Project provides  
15 individuals in need with legal assistance to resolve  
16 matters related to their mental health.

17 In 2015, the Mental Health Law Project  
18 helped residents obtain hundreds of thousands in  
19 Social Security payments.

20 Under the Office of Addiction, the  
21 county works with municipalities, health  
22 professionals, and non-profits to prevent and treat  
23 substance abuse as the disease that it is.

24 In collaboration with the County  
25 Prosecutor and the County Sheriff, our efforts to

1 combat the heroin epidemic will grow in 2016.

2 The Health Department also works to  
3 provide excellent care to the elderly at the county  
4 Health Care Center, also known as the nursing home.

5 This year, we improved its support for  
6 the elderly patients in our care with an expanded  
7 therapy area that provides greater opportunities for  
8 rehabilitation.

9 The county's Department of Human  
10 Services provides services for needy seniors and  
11 people with disabilities who receive care and support  
12 at home.

13 In 2015, the Division of Disability  
14 Services and the Division of Senior Services provided  
15 a combined 381,838 meals to 2,025 clients through the  
16 Meals on Wheels program.

17 Like the Health Department, Human  
18 Services helps our most vulnerable residents receive  
19 the care and support they need.

20 Department programming helps county  
21 residents caring for the disabled, chronically ill,  
22 or elderly loved ones navigate medical issues, legal  
23 and financial issues related to acting as a  
24 caregiver.

25 This past year, its Division of

1 Alternatives to Domestic Violence expanded abuse  
2 intervention programs to better protect victims and  
3 potential victims from these crimes.

4           The Division of Family Guidance  
5 established Empowerment House, a mental health  
6 facility serving young women who are at risk for  
7 mental health issues or addiction. It provides  
8 support, educational programming and guidance to help  
9 these young ladies overcome challenging circumstances  
10 and successful transition into adulthood.

11           Again, something that was unique, is  
12 not being done anywhere else but here in Bergen  
13 County.

14           By expanding the staff at the Division  
15 of Veterans Services, we were able to provide  
16 benefits, counseling and support services to more  
17 veterans. We effectively eliminated homelessness  
18 among veterans, but recognize this is an ongoing  
19 issue that has no easy solution. So we remain  
20 vigilant in supporting veterans who are needy or at  
21 risk.

22           In 2016, we are expanding our Hire a  
23 Vet program to assist linking veterans in need of  
24 work with the businesses and employers who would  
25 benefit from their skills.

1                   In 2015, the office served more than  
2                   800 veterans and their dependents as they pursued  
3                   higher education by working directly with the four  
4                   institutions located here: Felician College, Ramapo  
5                   College, Fairleigh Dickinson University, and our very  
6                   own Bergen Community College.

7                   The county continues to make  
8                   significant investments in Bergen Community College,  
9                   which I often call one of the jewels in the crown of  
10                  the county.

11                  BCC has more than 140-degree and  
12                  certificate programs, and grants more degrees and  
13                  enrolls more students than any other two-year  
14                  institution in the State of New Jersey.

15                  It provides dual enrollment  
16                  opportunities for motivated high school students  
17                  seeking college credits, as well as continuing  
18                  education for adults seeking professional development  
19                  or the skills to embark on a new career.

20                  Bergen County is known for some of the  
21                  best schools in New Jersey. In addition to the  
22                  wonderful schools at the 76 local school districts,  
23                  the county's own Bergen Academies and Bergen  
24                  Technical Schools rank among the top 100 public high  
25                  schools in the country. These schools are at the

1     forefront of education, providing rigorous curriculum  
2     and innovative academic programs in helping students  
3     prepare for the careers of tomorrow.

4                     The county's Special Services School  
5     District provides educational opportunities and  
6     support for students ages 3 through 21 with physical,  
7     intellectual or emotional challenges.

8                     This year we were proud to celebrate  
9     the opening of the new Special Services School  
10    serving students on the autism spectrum. Many of you  
11    were there, and we were all proud that day to be able  
12    to stand there and cut that ribbon and see those  
13    students sing, present a speech, and tell us about  
14    how happy they are to have a school like that. It  
15    doesn't sometimes get better than that.

16                    The state-of-the-art facility was  
17    designed specifically to accommodate these students'  
18    unique learning needs and better position themselves  
19    for self-sufficient adulthood.

20                    Finally, our Parks Department remains  
21    the most public department of county government. It  
22    serves thousands of residents and visitors every day  
23    at our parks, zoo, golf courses, environmental  
24    centers, and historic facilities. Also soon to have  
25    the dinosaur display.

1                   The zoo hosts hundreds of shows and  
2 educational programs for schools, seniors, and more  
3 than 200,000 members of the public who visit it  
4 throughout the year.

5                   In the coming weeks, we expect to  
6 present a long-term vision for the zoo that will  
7 return to its proper place as the best zoo in New  
8 Jersey.

9                   Improvements to Bergen County golf led  
10 to increases in both rounds played and revenue  
11 generated, which are reinvested in park improvements  
12 to enhance the experience for golfers and visitors.

13                   The Division of Cultural and Historic  
14 Affairs hosted theatrical performances and a summer  
15 concert series. We expect to expand opportunities  
16 for residents to enjoy free or low cost arts  
17 programming at our parks throughout the year in 2016.

18                   Through the Division of Open Space,  
19 under the county Department of Administration and  
20 Finance, the county parks improvement projects  
21 receive \$1.25 million in grant awards.

22                   In addition to county parks grant  
23 funding, the Division of Open Space supported  
24 municipal parks' improvements with 42 direct  
25 municipal grants totalling nearly \$1.8 million last

1 year.

2                   Beyond the services Bergen County  
3 residents need and want, this budget also includes  
4 payments to fulfill unavoidable financial  
5 obligations. These obligations are responsible for  
6 the increase over last year's budget, and they  
7 include debt service on capital projects like the  
8 Justice Center and Special Services School, pension  
9 and Social Security payments which are set by state  
10 and federal law, and employee health and prescription  
11 costs which continue to rise for public and private  
12 sector employees across the country, particularly  
13 those like Bergen County that is a self-insured  
14 entity.

15                   These are millions of dollars in  
16 expenses that Bergen County simply cannot choose to  
17 opt out of. At the same time, we do what we can to  
18 reduce these costs and protect ourselves from  
19 avoidable expenses. One area we are focusing on in  
20 2016 is our employees' health, wellness and safety.  
21 We will be meeting with focus groups of employees to  
22 get input on how they believe the county can help  
23 them maintain good health or improve their health and  
24 wellness.

25                   In the past, the county has been

1     approached to partner with large and small health  
2     care centers and facilities to work together on  
3     improving our employees' overall fitness and health.

4                     We will be evaluating these  
5     opportunities to determine if working together will  
6     benefit our employees both physically and  
7     financially.

8                     We care about our employees, and we  
9     know that if they are healthier, they will spend less  
10    of their money on health care, they'll be happier,  
11    and ultimately they'll be more effective at their  
12    jobs.

13                    Employee safety goes hand-in-hand with  
14    health and wellness. We are working with our union  
15    partners to develop universal safety rules and  
16    equipment standards to reduce on-the-job accidents.

17                    Our goal is to provide a workplace  
18    where you go home in the same condition that you came  
19    to work.

20                    We all must continue to strive to have  
21    a workplace that is accident-free and promotes good  
22    health for everyone.

23                    Another way we are saving tax dollars  
24    is by maximizing our in-house legal talent within the  
25    Department of Law to litigate outstanding legal

1 cases, reducing the need to contract with outside  
2 legal firms. This approach has saved us tens of  
3 thousands of dollars so far, as County Counsel's  
4 hourly rate is significantly lower than the rates  
5 billed by attorneys in the private sector.

6 MR. FLORIO: Don't look at me.

7 (Laughter.)

8 COUNTY EXECUTIVE TEDESCO: No, you have  
9 a remarkable rate, counselor.

10 MR. FLORIO: Thank you, Mr. Executive.

11 FREEHOLDER DeNICOLA: He meant  
12 remarkable talent.

13 MR. FLORIO: I'll take that too.

14 COUNTY EXECUTIVE TEDESCO: This is  
15 another example of our administration's doing things  
16 differently, by identifying opportunities, utilizing  
17 resources and personnel within county operations,  
18 whenever possible, before outsourcing to the private  
19 sector.

20 In 2015, the Office of Treasury  
21 refinanced \$83.3 million in county debt, which  
22 yielded \$880,460 in savings last year and will save  
23 \$4.4 million over the next nine years.

24 We work hard to live up to our  
25 responsibilities to the taxpayer.

1                   This budget will maintain Bergen  
2 County's exemplary rating with Moody's Investor  
3 Service, which is considered the gold standard of  
4 international credit rating agencies.

5                   Only five of New Jersey's 21 counties  
6 are rated AAA, Moody's highest credit rating. Bergen  
7 County is one of those five.

8                   In awarding us AAA status, Moody's  
9 said, and I quote, "The stable outlook reflects the  
10 expectations that the county's size and wealth will  
11 continue to exceed state and national medians and  
12 that its financial position will continue to be  
13 adequate and well-managed."

14                   Bergen County has more people than any  
15 other county in the state, but we have the second  
16 lowest tax rate amongst the 21 counties. The only  
17 county to have a lower tax rate, Cape May, has  
18 one-tenth of our population.

19                   So, in comparison to the rest of New  
20 Jersey, we're holding the line and doing more with  
21 less.

22                   Bottom line: What does this budget  
23 mean for the taxpayer?

24                   The average household will see an  
25 increase of less than \$3 a month in their county

1 taxes or \$32 for the entire year.

2 I have no coffee to present this year,  
3 Chairman, because most all the coffee that I drink is  
4 over \$3. So other than bringing you a black coffee  
5 under \$3 that you told me you don't drink, I'm sorry  
6 not to be able to bring you that this year.

7 In total, the average Bergen County  
8 household would pay less than \$100 a month in county  
9 taxes, under this proposed budget.

10 I am proud of the work we have done on  
11 this budget, and believe this strikes an appropriate  
12 balance between providing services people need and  
13 expect with being fiscally responsible.

14 I appreciate your time today, and would  
15 like to turn this over to the county CFO and  
16 Treasurer, Joe Luppino, who will provide further  
17 details about this budget.

18 Before I do that, I just want to say  
19 that while this is our second budget, it was probably  
20 one of the most difficult budgets. While we know  
21 that we have a lot of things that we want to support,  
22 we want to undertake, like supporting working on  
23 curtailing the heroin epidemic, working with people  
24 with mental health, helping our veterans, helping  
25 those that really need the most help, it's a very

1 fine balance. Some of the numbers were very telling.

2 While we get the second lowest amount,  
3 on average, of money from the state, we probably do  
4 more than most counties in the State of New Jersey.  
5 The services we provide, when compared to other  
6 counties, are far above what most counties provide.

7 And so when we prepared the budget, we  
8 looked at that and we said, what do we do with regard  
9 to balancing the taxpayer, but balancing the services  
10 that the people of Bergen County not only need but  
11 expect?

12 And so that's what this budget does,  
13 this budget balances those needs, Chairman. It  
14 balances the needs that a majority of the taxpayers  
15 want and demand in Bergen County, but also provides  
16 for those that need it the most.

17 Also, this year I hope that you'll take  
18 some time to read the biggest of the documents. As  
19 you know, when I was a Freeholder, one of the things  
20 that I talked about when I got this big book was what  
21 the departments' missions and goals and objectives  
22 were, and in some cases, I went back and looked at 3  
23 and 4 years, the words were exactly the same.

24 I've asked my directors to take a look  
25 at their department and give you a view and look at

1 their objectives and their goals, help you understand  
2 what their department is going to do, why they're  
3 spending the money they are, and put it in a document  
4 that you all can look at and read and refer back to.  
5 So I hope you'll take the time to do that.

6 The other one is the capital budget,  
7 and, again, this was what was asked. We've made some  
8 modifications to it, and I know you will also. But  
9 the capital budget gives us the ability to do some  
10 things that you can't do through the operating  
11 budget. And while there's big projects, there's many  
12 small projects that will touch the lives of many of  
13 our county residents.

14 And so while I don't believe the number  
15 is a large number in relation to our overall budget,  
16 it does fund the necessary projects that we need to  
17 maintain a safe environment for the people of Bergen  
18 County.

19 And, last, let me just thank the Board  
20 of Chosen Freeholders. Last year, I presented you a  
21 budget. You voted 7/0 in support of that budget. I  
22 offered you opportunities to come and talk to me  
23 individually, if you had questions about why we did  
24 some of the things, even if those answers didn't come  
25 out during the department discussion. I offer that

1 same to you this year.

2 We've offered you a budget that we  
3 believe is fair to the taxpayers of Bergen County.

4 I want to thank Freeholder Felice for  
5 scheduling the meetings and assuming the  
6 responsibility to hold the hearings and get those  
7 done in a timely manner.

8 So, Chairman, thank you. I appreciate  
9 your time here tonight. And I believe that with this  
10 budget, the taxpayers of Bergen County are being  
11 well-served.

12 Joe.

13 MR. LUPPINO: Thank you, Jim.

14 Freeholder Chair, thank you. If you  
15 don't mind, I just want to thank the County  
16 Executive, Jim. We have a good working relationship  
17 with Jim. He's very detail-oriented. He's always  
18 very challenging. He challenges me, and he makes me  
19 a better CFO. I think sometimes I challenge him, but  
20 I know my limits. Hopefully, I can make him a good  
21 County Executive.

22 I also want to thank his  
23 administration: Michele DiIorgi, for her help in his  
24 process. Dominic Novelli, the Administrator. Mike  
25 Bellucci. Mike sat in on most of all the department

1 budget meetings. He was very instrumental in helping  
2 me out, making my job easier, and he took the lead on  
3 the goals and objectives. And like the County  
4 Executive said, I think it's a great document, you  
5 know, just to get an idea of what's going on. So I  
6 know we have kind of a sprint here of meetings, but  
7 take the time out and kind of work from both books.

8 And Mike Kaplan, I want to thank him.  
9 He's our number cruncher. He does a great job, takes  
10 notes for me, and a really responsible guy.

11 From my senior staff, again, this  
12 budget is over half a billion dollars, you know, and  
13 one person cannot manage this budget, so I do have  
14 some excellent people that I want to recognize.

15 Marlene Golden. Marlene just stand up.  
16 Marlene is my budget examiner. She does a great job.  
17 She's been here almost 20 years behind the scenes,  
18 and she's like my right-hand person in terms of the  
19 budget.

20 Next to her, Cathy Difalco. Cathy is  
21 cross training for Marlene's position in the future,  
22 the heir apparent. She's learning. I'm also sending  
23 her to CFO school. So she's a great talent for me.

24 Julie Calabrese. Julie is my  
25 administrative assistant, and she does a great job

1 for me. She keeps me organized. Thank you, Julie.

2 These other two people are not here,  
3 but they're very instrumental. Bill Berenbroick.  
4 Bill is my accounting manager. He's my right-hand  
5 man in terms of organizing the general ledger system  
6 in the county. You know, he's great.

7 The next person is Angie Cetera Beign.  
8 She wanted to be here, I forced her to go to her  
9 daughter's recital. She helped me put together this  
10 really beautiful slide presentation, and she works on  
11 the budget. She does our capital budget, capital  
12 accountant. And I transferred over, I used to be the  
13 quote/unquote "county payroll tax accountant." She  
14 has a master's in taxation, so I transferred that to  
15 her, and she does a great job, especially dealing  
16 with the IRS and the state. She's a pit bull, and I  
17 told her next year she's going to do my taxes. She's  
18 fabulous.

19 So, again, like I said, one person  
20 cannot do this alone, so I have a great staff, and  
21 thank you.

22 Why don't we go through, I'll kind of  
23 go over real quick some of the areas where Jim  
24 covered, you know, there's the slide. I guess you  
25 get the visual, Bergen is the second lowest tax rate,

1 Cape May is one, and you can see the surrounding, I  
2 guess, Passaic is definitely higher than us, and all  
3 the others, Essex. We're less than a quarter. Our  
4 rate last year was .2377, so less than a quarter per  
5 hundred, our tax rate.

6 The County Executive covered, we're AAA  
7 rated.

8 So, we have 21 counties, five are AAA,  
9 Morris, Monmouth, Ocean and Somerset. We're very  
10 proud. That is the gold standard. We work very hard  
11 to keep that. It does require a lot of work from  
12 myself and our staff. We do interview three times a  
13 year, and these are very extensive interviews that we  
14 do with Moody's. They ask for a financial projection  
15 and, you know, and we also send them, I keep my  
16 folder together, press clippings, and I send them  
17 out, you know, especially all the great things that's  
18 happened in Fort Lee with the development.

19 So anytime there's a good, positive  
20 story with Bergen County, you know, our analysts,  
21 boom, I send it out. So it's very important to  
22 maintain that relationship with Moody's. And we  
23 attend their conferences, and so this makes me proud.  
24 This is like getting, you know, like the gold star  
25 for CFOs. So I'm very happy with that.

1                   We'll go to the next page, the  
2 synopsis. The tax levy, we're going to \$405,739,890,  
3 from \$386 million, so the variance is \$18.7 million,  
4 it's 4.85 percent.

5                   The County Executive mentioned, what we  
6 did this year, I think Freeholder Voss mentioned, in  
7 the last few years, we were always using a \$324,000  
8 house, which was low, and I promised you that I was  
9 going to research it.

10                   FREEHOLDER VOSS: Right. Right.

11                   MR. LUPPINO: And so I called up our  
12 Tax Administrator, Bob Layton, and I said calculate  
13 what's the average now.

14                   So the average is \$465,962. So the  
15 difference is \$32, but you know what, I went back  
16 also, in anticipation of a question, if we would have  
17 used the 324, actually the increase would have been  
18 lower.

19                   FREEHOLDER VOSS: Really?

20                   MR. LUPPINO: Yes, because you're using  
21 a lower base. So I went back. And so if we were  
22 using the number that we've been using all these  
23 years, the tax increase would have been \$22, it would  
24 have been, yes, \$793 versus \$771.

25                   So I expect to use that 465, we'll use

1 that for the next couple, I don't expect that to  
2 change. So it is a higher number. I think it's more  
3 conservative.

4 The next, fund balance, the good thing,  
5 we're going to score points with Moody's, is our fund  
6 balance grew at the end of last year \$1.1 million,  
7 3.43 percent. So that's definitely going to be a  
8 positive for Moody's, and our utilization rate is the  
9 fund balance that we use, again, we have \$33 million  
10 in fund balance, we're using \$18,350,000 in our  
11 budget this year as revenue, so 54 percent.

12 Last year, we used a little more. We  
13 have it a little lower. Again, I think that's  
14 another good point with Moody's, when they see that.

15 Our total appropriations are going up  
16 2.8 percent.

17 And right under here, what I did, I  
18 highlighted appropriation increases over a million  
19 dollars and over two percent.

20 The County Executive touched on this.  
21 So, when you look at our increase of 18.7, these are  
22 the major components of the increase.

23 The debt service is up \$9.6 million,  
24 okay, and we all know, we got these projects over  
25 from 2012 to 2014, about \$200 million of capital

1 projects were put on the books, and we're building  
2 them, so we need to fund those projects.

3 FREEHOLDER SULLIVAN: What were those  
4 years again?

5 FREEHOLDER VOSS: 2012 to 2014.

6 MR. LUPPINO: Yes, 2012 to 2014.

7 The \$147 million was the court and then  
8 the approximately \$50 million was the Special  
9 Services School in Paramus.

10 FREEHOLDER SULLIVAN: What was the  
11 total number for 2014?

12 MR. LUPPINO: It was \$147 million was  
13 the courthouse, and approximately \$50 million was the  
14 Special Services Schools.

15 FREEHOLDER SULLIVAN: Okay.

16 MR. LUPPINO: Yes. So that's a big  
17 component of our debt.

18 So that's important that we always  
19 maintain that AAA, because we're still not finished  
20 bonding that, so we need to bond more of that.

21 The group health is going up  
22 \$2.5 million, and the prescription claims is going up  
23 \$2.4, so it's about \$5 million. And we are  
24 incorporating actions that we have taken to bring  
25 down our appropriations on that. So I guess on the

1 budget hearings, you'll get the details of the  
2 actions that we've taken to keep that down.

3           The pension, that comes from the state.  
4 That's going up \$1.4 million. You know, I expect  
5 that to go up, and you've been reading that actually  
6 the Christie administration, they're trying to meld -  
7 right now, our local pension is funded at 75 percent.  
8 The state plan, because the state has not been  
9 funding the state plan, that's at 30 percent.

10           So, Christie's Task Force, the idea  
11 that they have is to meld those plans together. So  
12 if that happens, that's going to be a problem,  
13 because I'm sure, instead of being 75, we're going to  
14 be funded lower and that's going to increase, so it's  
15 important. So we expect, you know, that to always  
16 increase every year.

17           The Parks Department is going up  
18 \$1.1 million, but I have a footnote on the Parks  
19 Department.

20           The Parks Department, we're presenting  
21 \$11.6 million, our appropriation, however, we do  
22 collect \$9.6 million in revenue, so it's costing us  
23 about \$2 million. And the County Executive mentioned  
24 that we did get approximately a million dollar  
25 increase in park and golf fees. So what the

1 Executive wanted to do is reinvest those dollars into  
2 the golf program, into the parks, as he mentioned, in  
3 hopes of that regenerating more revenue.

4 So that's where that kind of makes  
5 sense on that.

6 The next slide, it basically is the  
7 same thing, it kind of analyzes what I talked about,  
8 the \$17 million increases, the debt service, the  
9 state pension and the parks.

10 You can go to the next one.

11 We talked about that.

12 We can go to the next one.

13 CAP calculation, that's very complex  
14 calculation. I'll just tell you, we are within CAP  
15 on there.

16 COUNTY EXECUTIVE TEDESCO: That's all  
17 you need to know.

18 (Laughter.)

19 MR. LUPPINO: It's very complex.

20 FREEHOLDER VOSS: How we did it, we  
21 don't want to know.

22 MR. LUPPINO: So we're okay. I had the  
23 auditor review it.

24 So we are within our CAP. And we do  
25 have a CAP Bank. We do have some CAP Bank left. We

1 have \$12 million that's going to expire in '17, plus  
2 I'm going to be asking the Board for a CAP Bank  
3 resolution. You'll get that resolution, so we'll  
4 build up more bank in there that we can use in the  
5 future.

6 Where do your tax dollars go?

7 This slide, I know it's -- it would  
8 probably be better to look on your handout. What it  
9 basically does is, we break it out by Legislative  
10 Branch.

11 The Freeholders, their salaries and  
12 other expenses is about at \$1.3 million. So that's  
13 .3 percent.

14 What we did for the Executive Branch,  
15 we grouped all of the departments in the Executive  
16 Branch, County Executive, Admin and Finance, Health,  
17 Human Services, Public Safety, Public Works, Parks,  
18 Planning, terminal pay, some insurances, so that's  
19 direct control of the County Executive, and that's  
20 about \$95 million, and that's 17 percent of the total  
21 budget.

22 The next is the challenging one, these  
23 are health costs for employees, statutory charges,  
24 that's \$120 million of the budget. So that  
25 represents 22 percent of the budget.

1           So we do have plans, and we're working  
2 on controlling those costs on that, because that's  
3 going to be the biggest challenge in the future for  
4 us.

5           The next one is county residents in  
6 psychiatric institutions, that's at \$40 million, but  
7 we do get revenue from the state, so that washes out.

8           The next section is debt service,  
9 \$85 million, 85.8 in our debt service, is 16 percent  
10 of our budget.

11           Next is our grants at \$15.5 million.  
12 That's our grants. That's an estimated number.

13           The Board of Social Services is  
14 \$9.1 million, and that represents two percent of the  
15 budget.

16           Then we have law enforcement, Sheriff  
17 at \$76.7 million. These are all the Constitutional.  
18 And the Prosecutor at \$29.8 million.

19           And then we have other agencies and  
20 constitutionals. We have the Surrogate at  
21 \$1.7 million, the County Clerk at \$4.7, the Board of  
22 Taxation is \$490,000, the Elections is \$1.4, and  
23 Superintendent of Elections is \$2.4 million.

24           And then the next section is education,  
25 which includes Bergen Community College, Vo-Tech, and

1 Special Service Schools, and that's \$59.3 million,  
2 which is 13 percent of the budget.

3 Where do your tax dollars go? I  
4 believe the County Executive covered most of all of  
5 these, where they go.

6 With the county roads, we have 51 parks  
7 and open spaces, we got 9,000 acres that we maintain  
8 through the Parks Department. And we fund up the  
9 Bergen Academies and the Special Services and the  
10 community college. We fund up over almost 20 percent  
11 of the college budget to help keep the college  
12 affordable for the residents.

13 The County Executive mentioned the 911  
14 and dispatch services. We have all the various  
15 departments that the County Executive mentioned.

16 The revenues, again, and you also have  
17 the detail in your budget books, so the revenues, we  
18 have the fund balance of \$18.350 million, clerk fees  
19 we're budgeting \$14.6 million.

20 And I'll go over the big amounts.

21 The Sheriff collects about  
22 \$7.1 million, we're budgeting for the ICE inmates and  
23 revenues that they collect from their fees.

24 Health Department, we have shared  
25 service agreements with the Health Department, so we

1 collect \$1.9 million. That's going to be our budget.

2 Bergen County Health Care Center,  
3 that's in our revenue. We're anticipating  
4 \$8.3 million from the Health Care Center.

5 Park and golf fees, again, our budget,  
6 we're anticipating \$9.6 million from the Parks  
7 Department. So we hope for great weather for the  
8 rest of the summer to bring in those numbers.

9 COUNTY EXECUTIVE TEDESCO: And green  
10 grass.

11 MR. LUPPINO: And green grass, right.

12 This is the revenue I was talking  
13 about, it's an in-and-out. The state gives us money  
14 for county residents in state psychiatric centers.  
15 So it's kind of an in-and-out, so the revenue shows  
16 up here.

17 What we do for the college, as you  
18 know, we bond the college improvements. We do get  
19 reimbursement for the Chapter 12 bonds. So that's  
20 the revenue, the \$2.3 million.

21 Central Municipal Court, we're going to  
22 anticipate a million dollars.

23 The grants, again, that's an estimate  
24 right now, and once the budget gets adopted we'll  
25 have the exact amount.

1                   Other major, the capital surplus, the  
2 surplus from capital we have, last year we sent over  
3 \$3.7 million, this year we're sending over  
4 \$3.8 million in capital surplus to come into our  
5 budget on there.

6                   So to kind of summarize it, our total  
7 anticipated revenues are \$139,396,000. The levy is  
8 \$405,738,890. So our total budget is \$554,135,025.

9                   So this next slide, what I did was with  
10 the appropriation, I grouped them by department, so  
11 it gives you a little bit of a pie chart for you.  
12 And then behind, in your presentation, is the dollars  
13 that correspond to the pie chart. And a lot of this  
14 we went over on the other slide, so we can probably  
15 continue.

16                   Our capital program, we're \$58 million  
17 this year and, again, we have the self-insurance.  
18 That's new this year. But other than that,  
19 everything is kind of consistent with the previous  
20 years.

21                   This is the pie chart that corresponds  
22 with the numbers, the different departments.

23                   And I think these budget highlights, I  
24 believe that the County Executive, unless you want to  
25 go highlight, Jim, any other one, but I think you

1 spoke to many of these.

2 Well, let me just maybe pick up one.

3 Administration and Finance, we procured  
4 an energy consultant to perform an electricity  
5 auction. And that was through Purchasing, and Mike  
6 Bellucci worked on that project. So we're looking to  
7 save \$1.4 million in the next two years.

8 COUNTY EXECUTIVE TEDESCO: In electric  
9 commodity costs.

10 MR. LUPPINO: Yes.

11 And the next one, under Bureau of  
12 Police Services, the realignment, we're tracking that  
13 on a quarterly basis. And right now, from the  
14 beginning, from 1/1/2015 to 3/31/2016, it's  
15 approximately a \$3 million savings. So if this  
16 realignment didn't happen, your budget definitely  
17 would be \$3 million higher. And a lot of it is  
18 because on the MUA, we have retirements of police  
19 officers, and they're not being filled, so there's  
20 savings there. And then also in that number is the  
21 savings of fringe benefits on that.

22 And that's also too, under the MUA, the  
23 Sheriff, he has retirements in his Sheriff's  
24 Department, not in the Corrections, but in the  
25 Sheriff's, and those retirements are not getting

1 filled. So that's where that \$3 million savings is  
2 coming from, and that's growing, you know.

3 I just had one M1 come through. In  
4 June, there's going to be another police officer  
5 retiring, so that's going to add to the savings.

6 Health Department, Freeholder Tedesco  
7 covered that.

8 Health Services, he covered that.

9 In the Department of Law, we have the  
10 Adjustor's Office. The new adjustor is doing a great  
11 job monitoring the patients in county psychiatric  
12 hospitals, and we are seeing savings. We're  
13 definitely seeing savings in that department. Jim  
14 Penall (phonetic) is doing a great job.

15 Parks, I believe the Executive  
16 mentioned about the dinosaurs, bringing those in, and  
17 the educational program, and the improvements to the  
18 golf courses.

19 For example, the fertilizer budget,  
20 you're going to see that increase, because we're  
21 bringing in new fertilizer, better fertilizer, more  
22 extensive. So what we're trying to do is make our  
23 grass greener, but we want to attract golfers, you  
24 know, we have nice green grass. And I know the  
25 bathroom areas and the clubhouse, they really need to

1 be upgraded. Some of them are I think from the  
2 1960s. So, if we want to attract people, we need to  
3 make these investments.

4 So Planning and Engineering, the County  
5 Executive went over.

6 Public Safety, again, he went over the  
7 revamped consumer protection agency, and we're  
8 bringing in revenue and protecting the people.

9 911, yes, we're looking at bringing in  
10 some new municipalities into the program, and that  
11 means more revenue.

12 Public Works, the County Executive went  
13 over. I believe their goal this year, Public Works,  
14 they do 25 miles of roadway, but I believe that this  
15 year their goal is going to be higher than 25, but  
16 last year they did 25 miles.

17 Education, the number's a little more.  
18 In the Bergen Community College, I'm including that  
19 \$23 million, and you have an analysis on that. I'm  
20 including the capital outlay, the interest that we  
21 pay for the bonds for the community college and, you  
22 know, and their education. And I don't know if the  
23 County Executive mentioned, they're in a partnership  
24 with Bergen Tech and they have a new high school, the  
25 Applied Science School. And there is a bond

1 ordinance that's going to be proposed to revamp the  
2 area where the Applied Science School is at Bergen  
3 Community College. So that's going to be put forth  
4 in front of the Freeholders for that.

5 Let me go back to the other.

6 And also, Bergen Tech and Special  
7 Services, \$39 million goes into that program, but,  
8 again, it's a blue ribbon school. And I just read in  
9 U.S. & World Report that they're actually also like  
10 Nos. 4 and 5 in the state, you know, those two  
11 schools, so the money is well spent there.

12 That's it.

13 Okay. Great. Any questions?

14 COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR NOVELLI: Good  
15 job, Joe.

16 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: The Budget Chairman  
17 is unavailable for the meeting, so he's asked the  
18 counsel to read a statement before we conclude.

19 MR. FLORIO: Thank you, Chairman.

20 This is a comment on the introduction  
21 to the 2016 Bergen County budget by Freeholder John  
22 A. Felice, Chair Pro Tempore and Budget Chair.

23 "Let me first say that I regret not  
24 being in attendance of today's Work Session to  
25 witness the introduction of the Bergen County budget

1 by County Executive James Tedesco.

2 "I am once again honored to have been  
3 asked by my Freeholder colleagues to oversee the  
4 budget process for the second year in a row as the  
5 Chair of the Budget Committee.

6 "This year's budget hearing schedule is  
7 very aggressive, but necessary. For the communities  
8 within Bergen to strike a true, not estimated, tax  
9 rate, and in turn accurate property tax bill to the  
10 residents of their communities, we will need to keep  
11 to this schedule.

12 "I will strive again to have true  
13 transparency during these hearings. Any questions  
14 that my colleagues on this board have please forward  
15 to me and copy my aide Lori. In turn, these  
16 questions will be forwarded by my office to the  
17 department heads, and administration for a prompt  
18 response.

19 "And lastly, may I say that many of the  
20 services that the County of Bergen provides to our  
21 residents are critical to their well-being;  
22 notwithstanding, we, as elected officials, must  
23 review all expenditures carefully to ensure that the  
24 2016 budget provides for the most vulnerable while  
25 balancing the financial burden on the residents of

1 our county.

2 "Respectfully submitted, John A.  
3 Felice, Budget Chair."

4 Thank you, Chairman.

5 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: Thank you.

6 I'd ask for a copy of that to be put in  
7 the record, please.

8 So before we adjourn, I just wanted to  
9 mention, we passed a resolution tonight, #466-16,  
10 which was what we kidded about earlier, about the IT  
11 upgrades for both rooms.

12 I want to thank the administration for  
13 their patience. It's been a few years that this has  
14 been going on. I'd like to thank every person along  
15 the way that put it altogether to get us where we are  
16 now: Former clerk, current clerk, staff members,  
17 putting together the needs and to make it a little  
18 bit better for all us to operate here. We will have  
19 an LCD screen versus a projector, you know, just  
20 things to modernize so we can offer better  
21 presentations that offer better service. So I just  
22 want to thank everyone involved for doing everything  
23 and for your patience.

24 So there being nothing further to come  
25 before this Board --

1 FREEHOLDER GANZ: So moved.

2 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: -- I'll take a  
3 motion to adjourn.

4 Freeholder Ganz.

5 Second?

6 FREEHOLDER VOSS: Second.

7 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: All in favor?

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

10 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: Opposed?

11 (No response.)

12 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: The ayes have it, we  
13 are adjourned at 5:52 p.m.

14 (Whereupon, the Work Session is  
15 adjourned at 5:52 p.m.)

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

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

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

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

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

My Commission Expires:  
7/11/19 (Whereupon, the Work Session is adjourned at  
5:52 p.m.)