#### **BOROUGH OF FAR HILLS**

Borough Council Regular Meeting MINUTES

March 13, 2023

#### CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Welsh called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. at the Far Hills Municipal Building and read the open public meetings statement in accordance with the law.

#### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Welsh led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

Present: Councilman Joseph Carty, Council President Mary Chimenti, Councilman

Peter J. Cocoziello, Jr. (via phone), Councilman David P. Karner, Councilman

Rick Rinzler, Councilwoman Sheila Tweedie, Mayor Kevin P. Welsh

Absent, as Excused:

Absent:

Also Present:

Borough Clerk Dorothy S. Hicks, Borough Attorney Joseph Sordillo, Borough Planner David Banisch, Borough Engineer, Steve Bolio, Special Counsel Joe Baumann, Chief of Police Michael DeCarolis, and approximately 30 members

of the public.

#### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

#### Resolution 23-059 - Attorney Client Privilege - Litigation - Affordable Housing

Motion by Councilman Karner, seconded by Council President Chimenti was unanimously carried to approve Resolution 23-059.

#### **RETURN TO OPEN SESSION**

Open Session reconvened at 7:35 p.m.

#### **REPORTS**

## Councilman Cocoziello - Roads

Councilman Cocoziello provided an update on the Pennbrook Road project and indicated a letter would be sent out to residents who reside in the project area. He also reported road improvements on DeMun Place and Dumont Road were planned and were being funded through an NJDOT grant.

Councilman Karner expressed his appreciation to Councilman Cocoziello for coordinating with Bedminster DPW regarding potholes repairs on Schley Road and Far Hills Avenue.

#### Councilwoman Tweedie – Health/Sanitation

No report.

## Councilman Carty - Finance/Insurance

No report.

#### Council President Chimenti – Laws, Ordinances & Elections

No report.

# Councilman Karner – Fire, Water, Light, Buildings & Grounds No report.

#### Councilman Rinzler - Police

Councilman Rinzler reviewed the February 2023 Police Report.

He noted interviews were currently underway for a police officer due to a recent resignation.

Mayor Welsh noted an elderly woman was recently found walking along the train tracks and expressed his appreciation to the citizen who notified the authorities allowing them to bring her to safety. He emphasized if you see something, to please say something.

#### Chief DeCarolis

Chief DeCarolis provided a brief update regarding the ongoing recruitment for a police officer.

#### Mayor Welsh

Mayor Welsh reported the preparation of the 2023 Budget was continuing and anticipated it would be ready for introduction next month.

He stated the Borough Council has received the final financial/fiscal report prepared by the Otteau Group and it will be posted on the Borough website tomorrow. The public presentation by the Otteau Group was planned for the March 27, 2023 Borough Council meeting.

Mayor Welsh announced a resolution has been reached and the Affordable Housing Agreement between the Borough and Melillo Equities, LLC will be amended to reduce the Borough's \$6.9 million payment to Melillo Equities, LLC to zero dollars. The Borough will now be receiving \$400,000.00 which consists of \$215,000.00 being allocated to the affordable housing trust fund and the remaining \$185,000.00 being allocated for improvements to the fairgrounds and downtown village area. He stated the age restrictions will remain in place for the 105 market rate units and 4 of the affordable housing rental units.

Mayor Welsh acknowledged Mr. Anthony Melillo and the Pulte Group for their collaboration in reaching this new agreement and expressed this was a major win for the Borough and each of its residents.

He also expressed appreciation to the members of the Borough Council, and especially Council President Chimenti who, through numerous meetings and discussions, worked extremely hard to reach this much better solution for the Borough.

Council President Chimenti expressed her appreciation to Mayor Welsh for bringing the Borough to this point and being able to weather the storm and to think reasonably in order to do what was best for the residents of Far Hills.

Members of the public expressed their appreciation through a round of applause.

REGULAR AGENDA APPROVAL OF MINUTES 2/27/2023 – Regular Meeting Minutes Motion by Councilman Karner, seconded by Council President Chimenti, was unanimously carried that these minutes be approved for content and release.

#### 2/27/2023 – Executive Session Minutes

Motion by Councilman Karner, seconded by Council President Chimenti, was unanimously carried that these minutes be approved for content only.

A transcript of the remainder of the meeting has been appended to the minutes. Motion and roll call votes are also depicted in the minutes.

#### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

# ORDINANCES - PUBLIC HEARING AND ADOPTION

ORDINANCE 2023-02 – AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE BOROUGH OF FAR HILLS' ACCEPTANCE OF A PERIMETER BUFFER EASEMENT, STREAM CORRIDOR EASEMENT, SCENIC CORRIDOR EASEMENT, STORMWATER DRAINAGE MAINTENANCE EASEMENT, 100 FOOT COMMON AREA/OPEN LAND EASEMENT, NATURE PATH EASEMENT AND SIGHT TRIANGLE EASEMENT IN CONNECTION WITH THE PLANNING BOARD'S GRANT OF PRELIMINARY AND FINAL MAJOR SUBDIVISION AND SITE PLAN APPROVAL FOR THE AFFORDABLE HOUSING DEVELOPMENT OF THE ERRICO ACRES SITE.

Motion by Councilwoman Tweedie, seconded by Council President Chimenti that Ordinance 2023-02 be adopted.

Roll Call:

Aye: Carty, Chimenti, Cocoziello, Karner, Tweedie

Nay:

Abstain: Rinzler Motion Carried.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

# ORDINANCES - INTRODUCTION

**ORDINANCE 2023-03 -** AN ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING \$60,000.00 FOR DEMUN PLACE AND DUMONT ROAD IMPROVEMENTS - ENGINEERING

Motion by Councilman Karner, seconded by Council President Chimenti that Ordinance 2023-03 be introduced.

Roll Call:

Aye: Carty, Chimenti, Cocoziello, Karner, Rinzler, Tweedie

Nay:

Abstain:

Motion Carried.

#### RESOLUTIONS

Resolution 23-060 - Authorizing Developer's Agreement - Pulte Homes of NJ, LP

Motion by Councilwoman Tweedie, seconded by Council President Chimenti that Resolution 23-060 by approved.

Roll Call:

Aye: Carty, Chimenti, Cocoziello, Karner, Tweedie

Nay: Rinzler Abstain:

Motion Carried.

#### CONSENT AGENDA

The items listed within the consent agenda portion of the meeting have been referred to the Borough Council for reading and study; a copy placed on the table in the meeting room and is considered routine and will be enacted with one motion the Borough Council with no separate discussion. If separate discussion is required, the item may be removed from the agenda by Borough Council action and placed on the regular agenda under new business.

#### **RESOLUTIONS**

- 1. Resolution 23-061 Accepting Resignation Police Officer
- 2. Resolution 23-062 Authorizing Contribution to Raritan Headwaters Association via the Clean Communities Grant
- 3. Resolution 23-063 Payment of Bill List

Motion by Councilman Karner, seconded by Council President Chimenti that Resolutions 23-061 through 23-063 be approved.

Roll Call:

Aye: Carty, Chimenti, Cocoziello, Karner, Rinzler, Tweedie

Nay: Abstain:

Motion Carried.

**PUBLIC COMMENT** — The Mayor and Council welcome comments from any member of the public. To help facilitate an orderly meeting and to permit the opportunity for anyone who wishes to be heard, speakers shall limit their comments to 5 minutes.

Public comment is included in the transcript appended to these minutes.

#### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

#### Resolution 23-064 - Attorney-Client Privilege - Litigation - Affordable Housing

Motion by Councilman Karner, seconded by Councilwoman Tweedie, was unanimously carried to approve Resolution 23-064.

#### RETURN TO OPEN SESSION AND ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Councilman Karner, seconded by Councilwoman Tweedie was unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting at 9:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

APPROVED - 4/10/2023

Dorothy S. Hicks Borough Clerk

BOROUGH COUNCIL MINUTES
03-13-23
Page 4 of 4

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BOROUGH OF FAR HILLS BOROUGH COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING COMMENCING AT 7:38 P.M. MONDAY, MARCH 13, 2023

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TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

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> BOROUGH OF FAR HILLS 6 PROSPECT STREET FAR HILLS, NEW JERSEY 07923

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#### COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT

Mayor Kevin P. Welsh Mayor Kevin P. Weisin
Councilman Joseph Carty
Council President Mary Chimenti
Councilman David P. Karner
Councilman Rick Rinzler
Councilwoman Sheila Tweedie
Councilman Peter J. Cocoziello, Jr. - via telephone 11 12

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ALSO PRESENT 1.5

DAVID BANISCH, Board Planner DAVID BANISCH, Board Flanner
DOROTHY S. HICKS, Borough Clerk
JOSEPH SORDILLO, ESQ., Attorney for the Borough 16 17 Council JOSEPH P. BAUMANN, Borough Special Counsel 18 STEVE BOLIO, Borough Engineer

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#### STENOGRAPHICALLY REPORTED BY:

CARMEN WOLFE, CCR NJ Licensed Stenographer

22 23

QUICK COURT REPORTING, LLC 47 BRIAN ROAD
WEST CALDWELL, NEW JERSEY 07006
(973)618-0872 24 office@quickreporters.com

1 MAYOR WELSH: Okav. Thank vou. Are

there any questions from the Council in regards to 2

these easements? I quess I will open it up to public.

If anybody would like to make a comment specifically

related to the easements. Please step forward and 5

6 state your name at the mic.

7 MR. CHERCHIA: Good evening. My name is

Jason Cherchia, spelled C-H-E-R-C-H-I-A. I'm an 8

attorney with Beattie Padovano in Montvale, New Jersey. 9

My office represents Far Hills in Crisis which is a 10

group of taxpayers in Far Hills. My clients are 11

12 concerned about accepting these easements because

there's a lot of unknowns that still lie in them.

There's new DEP regulations that if new calculations 14

are done under those regulations it's not clear whether 15

16 the storm water management system will fail or not. So

17 it's unclear whether the system really can support the

amount of storm water runoff that's going to be 18

19 generated here. I think a lot of this flows from the

larger developer's agreement not knowing what's really 20

in it. At least the public doesn't know what's in it. 21

22 And it's not clear who's going to be responsible for

maintaining the easement areas, any damage that might 23

24 result, any -- if the system doesn't survive the

25 storm water runoff. So I think there's a big problem

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MAYOR WELSH: Now we're going to move on

to unfinished business. Ordinance, public hearing and 2

adoption. Ordinance 2023-02, an ordinance authorizing 3

the Borough of Far Hills acceptance of perimeter buffer 5 easement, stream corridor easement, scenic corridor

easement, storm water drainage maintenance easement, 6

100-foot common area/open land easement, nature path 7

easement, a site triangle easement in connection with 8

9 the Planning Board's grant of preliminary and final

major subdivision and site plan approval for the 10

11 affordable housing development of the Errico Acres site. I'd like to start off with, Mr. Banisch, if you

have any comments you'd like to make on this ordinance. 13

14 MR. BANISCH: Mayor, with respect to

this ordinance, I would just like to remind Council 16

that these types of ordinances are commonly required

17 following a planning board approval action that

involves areas that are not to be disturbed after 18

development. There are I know a number of easements 19

20 included in this ordinance because it is a big project.

It's a complicated project. But there are -- each of 22 the ordinances that you described or just named, Mayor,

23 are designed to protect the environment, the neighbors,

the storm water management system, basically the overall 24

25 functioning of the neighborhood in the years to come. with that. The developer's agreement was not proposed

or made public with enough time for the public to

review it. The financial audit also was not put out 3

with enough time for the public to review it.

5 And then there's some discussion about a

herring in this case because the town already has a

8 Judgment of Compliance and Repose which already defines

builder's remedy. The builder's remedy is really a red

the town's affordable housing obligation. And by 9

definition, the town's affordable -- zoning ordinances 10

11 are not exclusionary. So to the extent that a

builder's remedy was even available, the developer 12

13 wouldn't be entitled to any affordable housing units

14 because the town has already met its affordable housing

So I think the whole -- I think 15 obligation.

16 the easement issue flows from the larger problem of the

public really not being aware of what's going on. And 17

18 I think that the Governing Body here should reconsider

19 what it's doing to make sure it understands the

20 consequences that the taxpavers are going to have to

21 bear. Thank you.

22 MAYOR WELSH: Thank you. Do you have a

23 comment, Joe?

24 MR. SORDILLO: I respectfully disagree

25 with the statements that were made with regard to the

7 5 1 but you did. 1 potential liability with regard to the Motion to 2 MAYOR WELSH: I disagree. 2 Enforce Litigant's Rights. You know, we've had --3 MS. DUFFY: You can disagree, but you 3 meaning the Borough had mediations with, you know, the 4 did. And I also want to bring up the fact that I 4 Court and expressed serious concerns as to what the looked at the notes from the meeting before, and 5 Borough may face if those motions continue to move 6 they're not accurate. They're not accurate. They're 6 forward. And we were -- the Borough wasn't successful 7 very, very briefly done on certain things and that 7 in opposing them. And it wasn't just a red herring. other things are expanded on. My own quote wasn't 8 It was an actual serious risk to the Borough. accurate. I take umbrage to that. And am I allowed to 9 That being said, I believe just to speak on the bountiful gift or not? Is this not the 10 address on the actual easements in place, those are 11 moment for the bountiful gift? 11 being considered in connection with this ordinance, the maintenance requirements are on the property owner. 12 MAYOR WELSH: This is strictly related 12 13 to --13 It's clearly set forth in each one of the easements. 14 MS. DUFFY: The easements. 14 The maintenance and obligations set in them are on the MAYOR WELSH: -- the easements. 15 15 property owner. And that the Borough is just getting 16 MS. DUFFY: Okay. I only want to know 16 -- basically, a majority of these are conservation 17 about the easement on 202. I still -- okay. That one 17 easement requiring certain landscaping requirements and that the areas be maintained in their natural state 18 bothers me. 18 19 MAYOR WELSH: You're talking about the 19 otherwise as well as allowing the public access to the 20 walking paths that are being installed and with regard 20 buffer easement? 21 MS. DUFFY: The easement that will be 21 to, you know, buffer requirements. As for the 22 directly on 202. 22 stormwater, they've had their approvals from the state. MAYOR WELSH: So that's a scenic 23 23 That's outside the jurisdiction of the Borough. The 24 Borough Planning Board has already heard this 24 corridor. Dave, can you give clarity on that if you 25 don't mind? 25 application and has approved it. That's what we're 8 MR. BANISCH: Yeah. That is a --1 1 here before the Borough Council is on an approved essentially, a 200-foot setback from 202. There's --2 application. And these easements are a condition of 2 immediately adjacent to that, there's an additional 3 that approval. They have to grant -- the Borough. 4 These are all into the Borough's interest. The 4 hundred feet of setback. It's an open land easement. 5 And what those two easements together anticipate is 5 Borough's not taking on any liability. The that that 300 feet will be landscaped. There will be a Borough's accepting these easements in the interest of 6 7 few things that go through that 300 feet, the access 7 the Borough. MAYOR WELSH: Okay. Thank you. Anybody road and --8 8 9 MS. DUFFY: Okay. That's what worries else from the public would like to speak? Come on up 9 me. Is this going to become a lane? 10 here, please. 10 MR. BANISCH: What do you mean by that? 11 MS. DUFFY: Denise Errico Duffy. At the 11 12 MS. DUFFY: A lane? lease meeting, I asked the pointed question that we 12 MR. BANISCH: Yeah. I mean, it's going would not be voting for anything at this meeting, and I 13 13 was answered directly by you that we would not be. 14 to be the primary drive way in and --14 15 MS. DUFFY: Is it going to be a 15 MAYOR WELSH: You asked about Friday 16 shoulder? 16 specifically. I said there's no action being --17 MR. BANISCH: Oh. You mean along side 17 MS. DUFFY: No, sir. I asked about this meeting. And there are people here that were there and the shoulder of 202? Is that what you're asking about? 18 18 MS. DUFFY: Yes. 19 19 heard me say it. Correct? And you said no, there 20 MR. BANISCH: There is a decel -- on the won't be any -- there won't -- I asked about the 20 northbound lane of 202 --Friday. That was a separate question. Well, that's --21 21 22 MS. DUFFY: Okay. 22 but I asked you will -- at the next Monday meeting will

there be -- you said absolutely not, not until we get

people here who heard it. If you didn't, I apologize,

more information. I wrote it down. I know there are

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MR. BANISCH: -- okay, immediately

before the driveway, there's a narrow deceleration

lane. I would estimate it's going to be widening

MR. BANISCH: There's a dualized access

2 road for the neighborhood. And the entrance road is

is obviously on the left. And it's all part of --

8 And it's all part of a design that's really kind of a

12 that this is going to make any more of a traffic --

14 it should ease traffic impacts related to turning

17 Hills Country Day School what they have now, Dave,

19 the south, I guess, to turn in there and then you

18 where you have an access coming from the north -- from

MS. DUFFY: Well, that's not a great

movements into and out of the site.

where you'd expect it to be from 202 on the right-hand

boulevard-type design. So there will be a center grass

MS. DUFFY: It's difficult to visualize.

MR. BANISCH: I can appreciate that.

MS. DUFFY: And you don't anticipate

MR. BANISCH: No. If anything, I think

COUNCILMAN KARNER: It's similar to Far

side proceeding from 202 into the site. The exit lane

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have --

median.

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pavement about five feet, maybe six feet. And then on
2 the north side of the driveway, there will be a
    similarly situated --
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               MS. DUFFY: You're not talking about the
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   present driveway. You're talking about the new --
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               MR. BANISCH: I'm talking about new
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    driveway which is kind of -- obviously, you know 202.
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    It's by that gravel pull-off that sits on the right
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    side of the road.
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                MS. DUFFY: Yeah. And that's what I'm
    worried about. Is that going to become opportunity for
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    someone to pass? Do you understand what I'm saying?
                MR. BANISCH: No. I don't think so.
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                MS, DUFFY: Am I making myself clear?
15 Is this -- I'll draw a picture. I'm a teacher. I'm
16 not trying to be -- I'm really concerned about that
    because the traffic is so crazy there to begin with.
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    And if something like that gives someone an
    opportunity, that should be concerning, you know. But
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    you're not seeing it that way?
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                MR. BANISCH: No. It doesn't appear as
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    though -- I'm looking at the plans. It doesn't appear
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    as though it's going to function that way either.
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                MS. DUFFY: Okay.
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                MR. BANISCH: What it will do is it will
    give people who are northbound on 202 that plan on
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22 example because you do know --23 COUNCILMAN KARNER: There's no great 24 example. It's a county road. 25 MS. DUFFY: No. I mean it's difficult there is what I'm saying. And this is going to be

making a right into the new neighborhood an opportunity 3 to move to the right which in all likelihood will 4 permit the traffic to flow freely behind it through. 5 MS. DUFFY: But are they going to be able to -- does anybody understand what I'm saying? 6 7 Are they going to be able to use that as a shoulder? I 8 don't think what I'm saying is green. MR. BANISCH: It's not terribly long. 9 10 If I had to estimate its length -- which I did not measure it before the meeting tonight -- but I would 11 12 estimate its lengths about two to three car lengths, about five feet wide on the shoulder to permit cars an 13 opportunity to decelerate and turn a right into the 14 15 access road. And then there's a similarly situated in dimension acceleration lane on the north side of the 16 driveway for traffic entering 202 from the access 17 18 driveway turning right and heading north. 19 MS. DUFFY: Because they're going to 20 have to stop to enter; right?

MR. BANISCH: That's right. They are.

stop this way and they're go to have to stop this way.

Am I correct? Or are they only going to be able to

MS. DUFFY: And they're going to have to

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2 right down from there. 3 COUNCILMAN KARNER: I know where it's going to be. 5 MR. BANISCH: Well, there's no second 6 lane. 7 MS. DUFFY: Do you understand? It's like there's that and then there's this. 8 9 MR. BANISCH: It's just going to be --10 it's going to be a two-lane -- it's going to remain a two-lane road with a slightly widened shoulder across, 11 12 I guess, I'd estimate something in the neighborhood of 13 80 feet across the frontage of the site, maybe 90. 14 Something like that. You think it's as much as 100, Steve? 15 16 MR. BOLIO: I'm not sure, Dave. 17 MR. BANISCH: Yeah, I'm not either. But it looks like it's about two or three car lengths --18 19 thank you, Joe. It looks like it's about two or three 20 car lengths of -- not even. Not even. It looks like 21 it's a car length of widening. And it looks like it's widening -- actually, now that I -- thank you, Joe, for 22 23 this. It looks like it's widening the pavement with 24 only a couple of feet. If anything, as I said, it's 25 just going to move -- ease movements -- ease

right-handed turn movements into the site and 1 2 right-handed turn movements out of the site. 3 MS. DUFFY: Is there going to be

4 opportunity to talk about the septic thing and the 5 other, or is that --

6 MAYOR WELSH: The septic? What septic? 7 MS. DUFFY: Well, the last meeting -the last two meetings everybody was talking about the 8 fact that the homeowners group will pay anything that 9 10 would happen. Let's say there was -- and my question was is there going to be insurance? And I know -- I 11 12 asked all these things. So. And I was answered 13 with --

14 MAYOR WELSH: This one we're talking 15 about right now is strictly the easements.

16 MS. DUFFY: Just the easements. 17 MAYOR WELSH: So that will be later on. MS, DUFFY: Okay. But later on there 18

19 would be opportunity to bring that. Okay. Thank you. MAYOR WELSH: Thank you. Anybody else

20 21 from the audience like to -- come on up.

MR. MELLENDICK: Dr. George Mellendick, 22

Lake Road. I just wanted to reinforce some of Denise 23

24 Duffy's points. Part of the difficulty here is that

25 there's really been no opportunity to discuss many of

these matters in detail. I pointed out before -- Mr. 1

Banisch was not able to answer the question. He said 2

3 he would have to look into it again regarding pretty

much the same matter that Denise Duffy brought up about 4

5 the accessory lanes for ingress and egress from that

property. And the similar situation on the other side 6

heading south toward the train station by Page Hill 7

8 Road where you have that extra lane that dips in toward

9 Page Hill and that passing lane, that's quite

hazardous. I don't know what the thinking was for 10

that. Some people told me it was so a school bus could 11

pull over something like that. But why that was done 12

when that development on Page Hill was not done, I 13

don't know. Now, I also recognize that that's in 14

15 Bernardsville. But just because it is in

Bernardsville, it is adjacent to us. And we should be

able to learn from the inadequacy of that intervention 17

in traffic. And we don't know according to our 18

19 planning expert whether or not it's even in the plans,

20 that a lane like that would be part of the development

here. So there's no opportunity to discuss anything in 21

22 detail.

23 The traffic presentation by the Pulty

group was disastrous and inadequate. And there was no 24 25 opportunity to answer -- to ask and get questions

answered at that hearing. As I mentioned at the time, 1

2 it was like we took an average intelligent six grader

and had him talk about the traffic issues related to

4 this development. There was really no attention to

detail nor have many other presentations had any detail

6 really. So part of the difficulty that the people are

7 having is having had that lack of ability and

8 opportunity to go into depth on these things. I mean,

I've heard the word transparency mentioned at these

hearings probably I wouldn't even say scores of times,

11 I would say hundreds of times. And I'm beginning to

conclude that the use of the word transparency is 12

13 inversely related to the transparency in the matter.

14 So I think that's part of the problem.

And I don't understand -- and maybe 16 someone could explain; although, usually no one does because you all sit there pretty much stone face -- why 18 a decision will be made you. You have this Otteau report which was a financial analysis for this very matter, and you've not had the opportunity to review it presumably and certainly we haven't, much less discuss

it. So I think it's faulted that a decision would be 22

23 made on a development like this when something like a

financial analysis was not even reviewed much less 24

considered and debated in public. So I find that 25

problematic. So at this point given what you did

2 tonight, let's say when you look at the financial

analysis or the Otteau report, is there an opportunity

to amend any of the decision making or is that fixed in 4

5 stone now?

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6 MR. SORDILLO: Mayor, I think some of the comments that was raised and concerns are stuff 7 that was already decided by the Planning Board at the 8 9 Planning Board hearing.

MR. MELLENDICK: I'm criticizing the manner in which that was done because there was no discussion for public attention or detail or debate about it.

13 MR. SORDILLO: I understand that you're 14 15 criticizing that, but what I'm answering is the fact 16 that at this point the Borough has -- the Borough Council has no input or authority over what the 17 18 Planning Board has already decided and approved. At this point, what we're doing is we're adopting an 19 ordinance accepting easements that are in the Borough's 20

best interest based upon the conditions of that 21

22 approval. So whether or not there's an extra lane from

23 202 into the development, this Borough -- whether --

24 and, you know, the effect of the Otteau report would 25 have no impact on the acceptance of these easements

moving forward with the Development Compliance Review 1

and with regard to the approval of the Planning Board. 2

These are all issues that would go before the Planning 3

4 Board. I think with Otteau Group that was a financial

impact statement or analysis that was being done. It's 5

going to be presented to the Council as the Mayor said 6

7 at the next meeting on the 27th. And that would affect

the financial aspects of the affordable housing

agreement, but it doesn't affect whether or not the 9

Borough accepts a conservation easement over a portion 10

11 of the property where it's already been approved. The

12 Borough can't change that approval. That approval is

13 -- the property owner and the applicant have vested

14 rights in that approval. The Borough can't now change

15 it. It has no authority to do so.

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MR. MELLENDICK: It's astonishing to me that a financial report would not have some interface 17 or integration with decision making about it. It

really is astonishing. And regarding the easements, 19

20 there really has been no discussion about that. You

can hear the questions people asking reflect our total 21

22 lack of specific knowledge about what each of these

easements is and what the ramifications are of each. 23

24 There's been no open debate about those. There's been

25 no discussion. No opportunity for people to ask

questions about those. And I think that's the basic problem here.

MAYOR WELSH: I disagree. I think at 3

4 the last meeting we had a --

5 MR. MELLENDICK: Well, you always do.

MAYOR WELSH: Excuse me, George. Let me

just finish if you don't mind.

8 MR. MELLENDICK: I don't want you using

9 my time, though.

> MAYOR WELSH: We had a presentation on the board that showed exactly the easements that were the same ones that were presented at the Planning Board level which I'm sure you were at most of those meetings.

15 MR. MELLENDICK: Yes. It was dreadful. 16 The lack of detail and the microscopic nature of the

17 presentation.

MAYOR WELSH: I wouldn't call that

19 microscopic.

20 MR. MELLENDICK: I would when you 21 consider the content on the screen. But I just wanted 22 to finish up by saying that I think that for a

Borough-altering development the lack of attention to 23

detail has been extraordinary and frankly very damaging

to this Borough going forward. And getting back to the 25

water issue, there was a woman from -- I forget her

2 name. From Fox Hunt at the last meeting. I don't know

if you remember her name or not. And she was asking

about the matter of the sewer. If this package plan

so-called -- I never heard that term before. That you

have a building to compress solid waste into. But so

it is. She was asking if this system fails the 7

homeowner association would take care of it, but how is

it set up that the homeowner association would have

enough money, have the escrow amount in its reserve to

take care of this should and when it fails? That's 11

12 still not clear. Do you know that?

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13 MAYOR WELSH: Can you answer that, Joe?

14 Give a better definition of how that works?

MR. SORDILLO: I can -- I can explain

16 that the -- when the homeowners association is created,

17 they have to go through a process whereby they hire

**18** professionals to evaluate the -- evaluate the

maintenance and value of the improvements that need to 19

20 be maintained by the association, common properties,

and in this case part of it will be the on-site 21

22 treatment plant. They will assign a value to that that

23 has to be funded by the reserve -- in reserves by the

association through the collection of fees. Now, when 24

25 an association initially is created, it's usually --

1 it's initially under the control of the developer. And

2 then as members join -- or new residents join the

association, they purchase homes, that it slowly gets 3

transferred over to private ownership. That funding 4

depending on the formula and how much it has to be is

all governed by state law and regulated by the DCA. So 6

7 there's an amount that the developer will have to

handle upfront or as the units are initially being sold 8

9 off, then eventually be funded fully by the residents

10 as they come on board.

11 That calculation and that determination 12 has to be periodically reviewed. They have to submit 13 documentation to the state for approval. And all of 14 their budgeting also has to be approved by the state to make sure that those funds are there and as well as are 15 adequately represent what needs to be their 16

17 responsibilities under the homeowners association for

that particular development. And in this case it has 18

19 quite a bit because we have the stormwater facilities

20 that are the association's as well as the private

roadways and as well as the on-site treatment plant for 21

the sewer. So that number's going to be significantly 22

23 high, but they're going to have to maintain it in

reserves to do so. At this point, we don't have that 24

25 because that's something that gets developed as the

association gets formed and moves forward. 1

2 But what we have in the developer's 3 agreement is a requirement that they will be on the

hook to do that in an agreement that will be recorded. 4

- 5 It will be in their homeowners association documents
- 6 and declarations that gets submitted and approved by
- 7 DCA as well as recorded. And they've also agreed as
- 8 part of the developer's agreement, Pulty has agreed to
- issue a deed notice on top of that whereby it puts an 9
- additional deed restriction on the property advising 10
- 11 any potential purchaser as the public in general in the
- chain of title that the association will be responsible 12
- 13 solely for the maintenance and any repairs to that
- 14 treatment plant.

MR. MELLENDICK: See, that's another 15

16 thing I would have thought would have been in the

17 financial consideration of the project. In other 18 words, for the Borough to have some sense of the number

that would be expected to take care of this kind of 19

20 matter should it flop as it may well. And then,

21 lastly, I want to ask the chief with regard to the

22 traffic issue, do you have some input or, like, with

cars coming and going whether it's the building phase 23

24 of it with the trucks and the flatbeds and all those

things, are the builders responsible for trafficking? 25

Or is that a state matter or a county matter? 1

CHIEF DeCAROLIS: We would keep an eye

3 on it.

2

9

12

15

16

4 MR. MELLENDICK: But in terms of

monitoring it or if there needed to be someone, say, 5

stopping or, like, a cop at Bedminster, for example, at 6

7 the school in the morning or 3:30, someone directing

traffic by the post office there. 8

CHIEF DeCAROLIS: If it seemed to be a

consistent problem, yeah, we would probably have to do 10

11 something.

MR. MELLENDICK: And that would be a

13 town function?

14 CHIEF DeCAROLIS: It would be on us.

MR. MELLENDICK: All right.

MAYOR WELSH: Come on up, sir.

17 MR. NEWMAN: Steve Newman, 19 Lake Road.

18 I just wanted to follow up on George's last question

because I live on the corner of 19 Lake Road and 202. 19

20 And in the last three days there have been about five

large flatbeds with huge excavators, caterpillar. And 21

22 so that's going on just to make everybody aware because

I see it, it's around the corner, is you have about two 23

or three local construction guys stopping all traffic

on 202. Okay. And it takes a long time to -- these

things are huge. And so my concern is if any --

2 anybody coming out of Far Hills Country Day with

children. Let's say a child in the back seat, like,

says something and a mother, like, you know, turned her

head in the back, and then because that curve you

didn't see anything and they hit that thing, they'd be

decapitated. Okay. So my concern is who's controlling 7

8 the traffic on 202? And my understanding is it's not a

9 local issue, it's a state issue because that's a

federal -- that's a federal highway. So I'm just 10

trying to understand, you know, what's -- what the 11

12 proper procedure is. And my understanding is state

13 police should be there directing traffic. So going

**14** forward before anybody starts moving more heavy traffic

-- I mean heavy equipment on there, somebody should, 15

16 like, take control of the situation because we all

17 don't want a death like that Karen Reilly mentioned

that she experienced a couple years ago. So I'm just 18

making the Board aware of it. I think somebody should 19

20 -- you know, somebody should be -- whatever the proper

protocol is on that because that's an accident waiting 21

22 to happen. Okay.

23

6

And then the next thing is there seems

24 to be a lot of heavy equipment being put on that

25 property, Errico Acres. And my understanding was

nothing has been finally approved. So are they tearing

down trees, structures? Are there permits in place? I 2

3 sent an email to Kim Coward and she says it has been

approved for tree removal, but she didn't address the 4

permit issue. Can anybody address that? 5

MR. SORDILLO: Mayor, like I said, the

7 project itself has been approved. It was approved last

year. It's been over a year it's been approved by the 8

9 Planning Board. As far as I'm aware, the only permit

10 that's been issued so far is the tree clearing permit.

And a lot of that does deal with the fact they can't 11

**12** get additional permits until the developer's agreement

13 has been finalized and their final plat has been signed

meaning they met all of the other conditions of 14

15 approval subject to the Borough planner and Borough

engineer's review. But that's my understanding. At 16

17 this point the only permit that has been issued is the 18

tree removal.

19 MR. NEWMAN: So that's great. So they 20 can start taking down trees tomorrow if they want to.

21 They have a permit to do that?

MR. SORDILLO: Yes.

MR. NEWMAN: Okay. And then is my

24 understanding is they have to stop, though, April 1st

25 because of some type of migration issue?

22

```
thinking about the future of the town and how
                MR. SORDILLO: Under the DEP permit,
 1
                                                                   everything runs with the land and all this other stuff
 2 there's a requirement that they can't remove certain
                                                                2
                                                                3
                                                                   that just seems to be lip service. But this is
    trees under -- between the time period of April 1st
 3
                                                                4
                                                                   serious. It's very serious.
 4
    through and September 30th.
                MR. NEWMAN: All questions answered.
                                                                5
                                                                             There's no, "I want to return my car
 5
                                                                   because it's a lemon." You guys are going to allow a
 6 More importantly than anything, let's address the
                                                                   system to be built that will fail according to the DEP.
 7
    traffic issue.
                                                                   And I understand there's nobody here from the DEP to
 8
                CHIEF DeCAROLIS: Mayor, can I?
                                                                   validate what I'm saying. But there are engineers
                                                                9
 9
                MAYOR WELSH: Yeah, please.
                                                                   here. You have your own engineers. Right? Ferraro's
                                                               10
10
                MR. NEWMAN: Thank you.
                                                               11
                                                                   here. I'm sure that if you ask them if the system
11
                CHIEF DeCAROLIS: We'd be more than
    happy to work with the builders if they let us know
                                                                    holds up to the new standards which every other town in
12
                                                               12
                                                               13
                                                                   the state is forcing developers to go by the new regs.
13
    ahead of time that they're going to be delivering heavy
                                                                   And I can tell by the look on your face, Mayor, that
                                                               14
14
    equipment. If they don't have the proper flagmen
                                                                   you know that. We're the only town that's not doing
                                                               15
15
    present, we'd be more than happy to send an officer
                                                               16 it. You guys need to reconsider what you're buying
16 just to assist with traffic.
17
                MR. NEWMAN: Yeah. I just don't think
                                                               17
                                                                   here because you're buying a lemon. And it's going to
                                                               18 fail. And then who's responsible? Who's responsible
18
    it should be a bunch of construction guys trying to
                                                                   for all the flooding and all the property damage that
                                                               19
    stop these huge things because they're blocking the
19
                                                               20
                                                                   happens downstream? Because it's not just what happens
20
    whole 202. We need, like, a police -- you know, you
                                                                    right there. Right? It just continues all downhill,
                                                               21
21
    need a police unit with sirens, you know, to get more
                                                                    all downstream. Damage is going to be massive. So you
                                                               22
22
    people's attention. All right. Thank you.
                                                                    guys seriously need to think about what you're buying
23
                MAYOR WELSH: I appreciate that. Thank
                                                               23
                                                               24
                                                                    here. Thank you.
24
    you. Anybody else from the public want to speak?
                                                               25
                                                                                MR. MELILLO: Anthony Melillo, Melillo
                MR. MAHONEY: Jonathan Mahoney, 5 Fox
25
                                                                                                                 28
                                                                    Equities. Just to address -- we could stay here all
 1 Hunt Court. Chief, I'd like to say first thanks for
                                                                 2
                                                                    night and address all the comments, but just
    offering our taxpayer dollars to assist a developer.
                                                                 3
                                                                    specifically to -- sir, what was your name?
 3
    That's really great. That's awesome. So thanks for
                                                                 4
                                                                                MR. MAHONEY: John Mahoney.
 4
    that.
                                                                 5
                                                                                MR. MELILLO: John Mahoney's. Yes, we
                CHIEF DeCAROLIS: You're welcome.
 5
                 MR. MAHONEY: Second, this kind of goes
                                                                 6
                                                                    did submit 60 days earlier, but we thought it would be
 6
                                                                    prudent to actually develop the site that was based on
     back towards the easements and back to a few comments
                                                                 7
 7
                                                                    the new regs. So if you took a look at the site -- and
                                                                 8
     that you heard here. I understand you guys are going
 8
                                                                 9
                                                                    I'm sure Mr. Mullen can attest -- it's actually based
     to be voting tonight on this developer's agreement. I
 9
                                                                10
                                                                    on the new regs, even though we didn't actually have
10
     understand that this thing is approved in the Planning
                                                                11
                                                                    to. So they're not buying a lemon. This was done
     Board. Okay. But there's been some conversation about
11
                                                                12
                                                                    based on the best regs as of today. Thank you.
12
     stormwater and the sewage and the septic plant and all
                                                                13
                                                                                MAYOR WELSH: Thank you. Anybody else
     this other stuff. Just that you know, their DEP
13
                                                                    from the public have a comment they'd like to share?
                                                                14
14
     application was filed about 60 days before a cutoff
                                                                15
                                                                    There's no other comments, could I get a motion to
15
     where the DEP is changing the regs on the rain counts
                                                                16
                                                                    close public comment?
     for the system. The system that's approved that you
16
                                                                17
                                                                                COUNCILWOMAN TWEEDIE: So moved.
17
     guys are going to allow tonight, that you're going to
                                                                                COUNCIL PRESIDENT CHIMENTI: Second.
                                                                18
     allow to move forward, if you put the new calculations
18
                                                                19
                                                                                MAYOR WELSH: All those in favor?
     for the rainwater into that system for the moving
 19
                                                                                [All responded "aye."]
                                                                20
     forward for the 100-year storms for the changing in the
20
                                                                21
                                                                                MAYOR WELSH: Can I have a motion of
21
     climate that we're all seeing, you put those
                                                                22
                                                                    approval of the easements?
22 calculations into this system, and it fails. So you
     need to think very, very hard about what you're buying
                                                                23
                                                                                COUNCILWOMAN TWEEDIE: So moved.
 23
```

here. You're buying a system that does not hold up for

the future. And a lot of you have said you're always

24

25

MAYOR WELSH: Can I have a second?

COUNCIL PRESIDENT CHIMENTI: Second.

	20		31	
_	29	4	MS. HICKS: Councilwoman Tweedie?	
1	MR. SORDILLO: Mayor, that's a motion to	1 2	COUNCILWOMAN TWEEDIE: Yes.	
2	adopt Ordinance 2023-02.	3	MAYOR WELSH: Okay. We're going to move	
3	COUNCILWOMAN TWEEDIE: Yes. Sorry.	3 4	on to resolution 23-060, authorization of developer's	
4 5	MAYOR WELSH: Yes. Correct.  MR. SORDILLO: Just wanted to clarify.	5	agreement, Pulty Homes of NJ, LP. Joe, if you wouldn't	
5 6	MAYOR WELSH: Correct. Thank you.	6	mind.	
о 7		7	MR. SORDILLO: Thank you, Mayor. Some	
8	Dorothy, roll call.  MS. HICKS: Councilman Carty?	8	of what I was going to say is actually already kind of	
9	COUNCILMAN CARTY: Yes.	9	was brought up during some of the public comments so	
10	MS. HICKS: Council President Chimenti?	10	far heard, but just wanted to give a little background	
11	COUNCIL PRESIDENT CHIMENTI: Yes.	11	on, you know, where this came from and, you know, some	
12	MS. HICKS: Councilman Cocoziello?	12	of the other auxiliary actions currently pending. As	
13	COUNCILMAN COCOZIELLO: Yes.	13	some of the members of the public might be aware who	
14	MS. HICKS: Councilman Karner?	14	were here on Wednesday when we had the special meeting	
15	COUNCILMAN KARNER: Yes.	15	to enter into executive session, we had a couple	
16	MS. HICKS: Councilman Rinzler?	16	motions pending against the Borough currently to	
17	COUNCILMAN RINZLER: Abstain.	17	enforce litigant's rights in our affordable housing	
18	MS. HICKS: Councilwoman Tweedie?	18	trust excuse me. Compliance litigation. Those	
19	COUNCILWOMAN TWEEDIE: Yes.	19	motions are alleging that based upon the Borough's	
20	MS. HICKS: Thank you.	20	failure to move timely on some of its compliance review	
21	MAYOR WELSH: Okay. We're going to move	21	that we're in violation of the settlement agreement	
22	on to new business. It's an introduction to ordinance	22	with Fair Share Housing. Our Judgment of Repose, that	
23	2023-03. An ordinance approving \$60,000 for Demun	23	is the just so everyone's aware that's the	
24	Place and Dumont Road improvements. Peter Cocoziello	24	judgement that give us builder's remedy protections.	
25	5 was alluding to this earlier this evening. There is		Currently we have a conditional JOR. There's a number	
	30		32	
1	and we've been working on this for years. It's	1	of conditions that are still outstanding. And	
2	actually through NJDOT. We received a grant for the	2	actually, the last condition that is still outstanding	
3	repaving of these roads. And this is the engineering	3	with that item is the entrance of the developer's	
4	,		agreement for this project. It has to include certain	
5	, ,		phasing requirements agreed upon by Fair Share which	
6			has been agreed upon and has been determined.	
7	, 5 ,,		The motions were filed by Melillo	
8	these projects. Are there any questions from the	8	Equities as well as Fair Share Housing Center. And what they're seeking is an order requiring the	
9	Council regarding this introduction? Okay. I guess I	10	municipality to move forward with its compliance	
10	would ask at this point if we can have a motion to introduce the ordinance 23-03.	11	including signing a developer's agreement as well as	
11 12	COUNCILMAN KARNER: Mayor, I'll make a	12	removal of our builder's remedy immunities. And Fair	
13	motion introduce ordinance 2023-03.	13	Share has gone also further to request that the bonus	
14	COUNCIL PRESIDENT CHIMENTI: Second.	14	credits for the project be taken away meaning that	
15	MAYOR WELSH: Roll call.	15	just so, once again, not everyone might have been and	
16	MS. HICKS: Councilman Carty?	16	the public might have been here throughout the whole	
17	COUNCILMAN CARTY: Yes.	17	process. As part of the affordable housing compliance,	
18	MS. HICKS: Council President Chimenti?	18	when you have certain forms of development meaning	
19	COUNCIL PRESIDENT CHIMENTI: Yes.	19	family rental units, you can be awarded credits, rental	
20	MS. HICKS: Councilman Cocoziello?	20	credits towards your overall obligation. Meaning if	
21	COUNCILMAN COCOZIELLO: Yes.	21	you have to have and I'm just going to throw simple	
22	MS. HICKS: Councilman Karner?	22	numbers out a 50-unit obligation and you build, you	
23	COUNCILMAN KARNER: Yes.	23	know, 35 units actual and provide for the	
24	MS. HICKS: Councilman Rinzler?	24	development of 35 rental units, you can get 15	
25	COUNCILMAN RINZLER: Yes.	25	builder's credits meaning you don't actually have to of 61 8 of 26 sheet	

build those 15 units, you just get credit for those 1

- 2 towards your obligation. It's important because it
- keeps the overall construction down. And that's what
- 4 the -- just to -- I wanted to explain what those are so
- 5 you understand what they're asking to remove as part of
- 6 this project. So they're seeking -- in this project,
- 7 we have 14 affordable housing bonus credits for the
- 8 Errico Acres site. So if we failed or were found in
- 9 violation based upon these motions, that we are at risk
- 10 of losing those 14 bonus credits which we now would
- 11 have to come up with some type of development for
- 12 actual brick-and-mortar construction of those units.

13 That's what's currently is facing the

- 14 Borough. In connection with that, we've had a number
- 15 of mediations with the court special master which
- 16 happens to be the judge who was ruling on our
- 17 affordable housing compliance, Judge Miller. And he's
- 18 been meeting with this to try to keep it away from
- 19 being heard by the court to see if we can resolve it,
- 20 especially given the fact that the Borough has been
- 21 moving forward, has been in the process of negotiating
- 22 a developer's agreement for some time. We had these
- 23 easements in place and actually introduced an ordinance
- 24 at a prior meeting. We just hadn't moved forward with
- 25 adoption at the time. And so was trying to come to --

- and help the parties come to a mutual agreement. Since
- that time and through the remediation, we have been 2
- able to enter into -- or excuse me. Have been able to 3
- 4 negotiate a developer's agreement that's in a form that
- 5 I would recommend to the Borough Council. There may be a few minor things that needs to be, you know, tweaked
- 7
- before final signature tomorrow, just cleanup items, 8 but I think it's in a form that I would recommend
- 9 moving forward with. It has all the protections that
- 10 the Borough needs. It addresses all of the conditions
- and requirements of the Planning Board. As I stated 11
- 12 earlier, it does include all the provisions relating to
- 13 the septic on-site treatment facility. The maintenance
- of that moving forward talks about requirements with 14
- 15 regard to the homeowners association including the age
- 16 restriction. And I'm not sure if I mentioned this
- 17 earlier, but as well as a deed restriction for the
- on-site treatment plant. There's also -- they agreed 18
- to place a deed restriction in addition to the other 19
- 20 documents. There's going to be a number of documents
- 21 being recorded that identifies the age restriction, but
- 22 there's going to be separate deed restriction placing
- 23 that age restriction on the market rate townhomes as
- 24 well. So it's very clear that those just can't simply
- be lifted at a later date. Those would be in 25

- perpetuity age restriction which is something that was 1
- very beneficial to the Borough in what was, you know,
- part of the negotiation in the original development of
- 5 So with of all those terms, that is

4

the site.

- 6 what's being presented to the Council this evening with
- 7 regard to this developer's agreement. This is -- a
- 8 developer's agreement is a very common document. And
- 9 it's very usually a lot more simplified in most
- 10 developments. The idea of a developer's agreement is
- 11 to make sure that the developer complies with all of
- 12 the requirements of the approval, the planning board or
- 13 zoning board approval and the resolution, but also to
- 14 set forth certain performance guarantees and
- 15 maintenance guarantees for, you know, any public
- 16 improvements that are also included. While this
- 17 agreement handles all that, it's much more involved
- 18 because this is a much more complicated development.
- 19 And especially specifically for the Borough being such
- 20 an important development in the Borough, being such a
- meaningful impact to the Borough, that this has a lot 21
- 22 more terms and needed to be -- have a lot more terms to
- 23 be able to cover and protect the Borough making sure
- 24 that this development was done as was intended and is
- 25 required my law. So that is what is currently before

03/24/2023 10:30:51 PM

35

- 1 the Borough Council this evening under resolution
- 2 23-060. And I'm happy to answer any questions.
- 3 MAYOR WELSH: Does anybody from the --
- 4 COUNCILMAN CARTY: Yeah, two things.
- 5 Joe, the lawsuit goes away?

- MR. SORDILLO: Well, yeah, that's part
- 7 of it. As the Mayor mentioned earlier, the Melillo
- 8 Equities and Pulty had come to an agreement with the
- 9 Borough that they're willing to work with the Borough,
- 10 remove the payments, amend the affordable housing
- 11 agreement, which is a separate agreement from the
- 12 developer's agreement. Those are two separate, two
- 13 different types of paths. Those are two different
- 14 functions. They're agreeing to -- if the Borough does
- 15 move forward adopting the developer's agreement moving
- 16 forward with the easements which the Borough has
- 17 already done this evening and moving forward with the
- 18 final compliance and signing the plans as I identified
- 19 previously as part of the compliance review, that the
- 20 developer, Melillo Equities and Pulty, had agreed that
- 21 they will amend that affordable housing agreement to
- 22 amend all payments required by the Borough. They would
- 23 dismiss the litigation. So that goes away. And all
- 24 that risk and liability will go with it that I
- 25 mentioned earlier in my words that I was just speaking.

- 1 And that would then put us back on track with regard to
- 2 the court regarding our final JOR because this
- 3 document, the developer's agreement, once it's signed,
- 4 it satisfies the last condition of the JOR. So now we
- will have an unconditional JOR to be, you know, entered
- 6 into the court and have our builder's remedy immunity

7 finalized.

8 COUNCILMAN CARTY: So the answer's yes? 9

MR. SORDILLO: Yes.

COUNCILMAN CARTY: Number two, will it 10 11

always be age restricted? Is that something that could

12 ever be taken way? 13

MR. SORDILLO: Not without Borough 14 approval and without state approval. It would have to 15 come down to be some type of, you know, a lot of moving

16 parts to have that happen. But it would be -- it's 17 going to be a deed restriction not just something

18 that's, you know, in their homeowners association

19 documents. So that gives us that extra protection.

And they agreed to that in the developer's agreement. 20

COUNCILMAN CARTY: What is it? 50, 55 21

22 number? What is it?

23 MR. SORDILLO: 55.

COUNCILMAN CARTY: That's all I have.

25 COUNCILMAN KARNER: I have a question.

- Joe, with regard to developer's agreement, you said
- that the affordable housing agreement has nothing to do
- with that. So there would be no terminology of the
- 4 affordable housing agreement in the developer's
- 5 agreement?

24

6

- MR. SORDILLO: Let me clarify. There is
- 7 -- the developer's agreement deals with the development
- and the required development of the site based on the 8
- 9 Planning Board. So part of that development is the
- 10 development of the affordable housing units. So there
- is some overlap. My intension or what I was trying to 11
- clarify is that these are two separate agreements, two 12
- separate purposes. You know, one is to set -- when we 13
- 14 entered into back in 2018, to set forth requirements of
- 15 the Borough to put the zoning in place, requirement to,
- you know, hear the applications when the zoning's in 16
- 17 place, financial requirements that now have since going to be changed, but there was a lot in that, you know,
- 18
- 19 because that agreement was designed to be at the very
- beginning of the process. The developer's agreement is 20
- actually at the end of the process. That is saying, 21
- 22 all right, you have all your approvals, now this is
- 23 what you have to build and these are the guarantees
- 24 you're giving the Borough that you're going to build it
- the way you said you're going to build it. So there

- are some overlaps in terms and requirements including
- 2 such, like, the phasing of affordable housing
- development itself. The actual phasing of the
- construction, that's, you know, going to have to be
- addressed in both, or it's somewhat addressed in the
- existing, but will be addressed in any future amendment
- 7 to really clarify that. But the intent of the
- affordable housing agreement is to ultimately govern
- how that affordable housing development and the units
- 10 themselves will be maintained. There will be deed
- 11 restrictions in all of those terms. The developer's
- 12 agreement is -- the intention is to govern how that
- property gets developed, constructed, and make sure 13
- 14 it's compliant with the approvals.

COUNCILMAN KARNER: Thank you.

16 COUNCILMAN RINZLER: Joe? Is Mr. Miller

17 aware that the developer's agreement has been -- sorry.

18 The affordable housing agreement, the dollar figure's

19 been taken out?

15

20 MR. SORDILLO: No. That's not part of

21 the motions before the court. That's a separate issue

22 that hasn't been raised to the court at this time. It

23 has been in our mediations identified that those were

24 ongoing negotiations, but that wasn't the focus of what

25 these motions are and what the mediation was. It was

-- he was advised to it so he could be fully informed,

but it wasn't really the focus of what we were trying

3 to get accomplished.

4 COUNCILMAN CARTY: The only thing I

5 would say is that the only thing that makes it tough on

me is we want as George mentioned, Doc, mentioned we

7 want to be transparent. And we've said that a thousand

- 8 times. And things are really moving quickly. And I
- 9 wish we had the luxury of being more transparent
- because -- and I sympathize and I get you, but, you
- 11 know, things change so quick. And we promised we'd get
- 12 it in front of everybody, but we can only do what we
- 13 can do. Things change so quick. From my
- 14 understanding, the Mayor's been working on this for
- months. And we wanted to, but it's out of our hands. 15
- 16 You know, we're taking Far Hills from, what, 911
- 17 people, we're going to add 300 people to our -- similar
- 18 to what happened when the Polo Club came in 30 years
- 19 ago. And, you know, we all love Far Hills. There's no
- 20 doubt about it. We're trying to make the best of a bad
- 21 situation, but I think we have a great partner with the
- 22 Melillo's. They've done a great job for us. I know,
- 23 you know, it may come across whatever wrong, but
- 24 they're the right people to go into business with. If
- 25 we have to go with someone, those are the people I

would choose to go bat with because they've done a 1

2 great job cleaning up 202 as we see it. And, you know,

3 this is something that's being forced on us. Nobody

4 wants this. That's my opinion. I can't speak for

everybody. But this is what Fair Share is telling us 5

we have to do. But if we have to, I'm happy to go work 6

7 with the Melillo's as always.

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MAYOR WELSH: Mr. Banisch, do you have 9 anything you'd like to add in regards to what's in front of us here tonight? Mr. Banisch is our town planner.

12 MR. BANISCH: Well, I think all the hard 13 work that the Borough's done literally for years to get 14 to a point where you had a settlement agreement, you 15 had your affordable housing obligations worked out, 16 approved by the court, to get to a point now where there were an impasse over terms that were difficult 17 for the Borough to accept, and to finally clear those 18 19 terms as being any kind of a concern to the Borough, any kind of hindrance from moving forward and 20 implementing your plan as it was approved by the court, 21 22 I think is -- I think it's a -- I think it's a big 23 successful win for you.

Some of the Council members have 25 mentioned it, but you're at a point right now where if

you can honor the modified terms that you explained to 1 2 the public in your opening remarks, Mayor, the Borough

will avoid that litigation. It will avoid potential 3

for additional builder's remedy lawsuits at least as 4

pertains to this period now until July 1, 2025. You'll 5

remain protected. Where as, I think if you got off 6

track and you found yourself in court having to defend 7

yourself with this litigation, the outcome would be 8

unknown, is unknown to you, and it's a risk that I 9

think the Borough doesn't want to run. You know, 10

you've tried to carefully manage any growth that occurs 11

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in the municipality. And builder's remedy lawsuits

13 have a way of transforming communities simply by virtue

14 of the magnitude that the courts approve. So...

COUNCILMAN CARTY: And it saves us

16 \$7 million. It saves us \$7 million.

MR. BANISCH: Saves you 7 million, keeps

18 you out of court. And right now you know --

COUNCILMAN CARTY: From the previous we

20 had a \$7 million deal, and they were kind enough to

work with us which is great. Work with us means they 21

took it off the table. That's a lot. It's a big ask. 22

MAYOR WELSH: Special Counsel Mr. 23

Baumann, would you mind saying a few words? 24

MR. BAUMANN: Thank you, Mayor, Council.

Joe Baumann, McManimon Scotland & Baumann. So a month 1

ago perhaps the Mayor contacted me and asked me to sort 2

of be the third or fourth maybe fifth pair of eyes to

take a look at the transactions that have occurred over

eight years now. So going back to 2015 when this

process began. I think it's always important when you 6

get to this moment in time that you remember how you 7

8 got here and what happened before you before for me

sort of parachuting in at the last minute to take a

10 look at it for you, three things sort of jump out

11 clearly to me. One was care, one was diligence, and

12 one was openness. I've heard the comments by four

people maybe five at the meetings I've been, not many, 13

14 that perhaps that didn't occur. But if you spend a

15 little time just walking through the history which I'm

16 sure some of you prefer to forget -- and we'll go back

to 2015 -- and look at the minutes of the -- some years 17

18 literally every meeting you discussed affordable

19 housing.

20 The Planning Board met ten times, I think, ten times to consider and evaluate this 21 22 proposal. That's a lot of meetings over the course of 23 almost an entire year. There was no doubt every stone was unturned, every piece of grass was measured, every 24 legal issue was discussed. Now, people may not prefer 25

the result, but there's no doubt in my mind that they 1

were heard. Maybe they weren't agreed with. There's a 2

difference between listening to and agreeing with. And 3

4 the Planning Board ultimately concluded that this

project made sense. 10 meetings. Together you, I 5

think, have taken almost a dozen or more public actions 6

from the beginning to the end. Again, I think there 7

might have been 40 meetings over the course of the last 8

9 just five years where this Governing Body has

discussed, thought about, concluded all within your 10

limited scope. You're not the Planning Board. You 11

don't get to approve this project tonight. It's 12

approved. All you get to do today is decide about what 13 14 the developer's agreement.

So to suggest that you weren't careful, diligent, thoughtful, and transparent is just wrong. If you spent a little time walking through the history, reading the minutes, and listening, again, perhaps you didn't agree with everything you heard, but you certainly listened and tried to accommodate.

You have a constitutional obligation to provide affordable housing. That's not necessarily a 22 bad thing. Families will be able to live in this town who can't otherwise afford to. Families will be able to live in New Jersey that can't otherwise afford to.

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- 1 Whatever the view of that is, at end of the day, that's
- 2 not necessarily a bad thing. And the price of that is
- 3 an inclusionary housing is market rate. Affordable
- 4 housing without free land, substantial financial
- 5 contributions from the municipality, and significant
- 6 credits, tax credits or otherwise, doesn't happen
- 7 without a market rate project with it. The numbers,
- 8 the percentages can be as low as under 15 percent.
- 9 You're at 22 percent. That is absolutely the high end
- 10 of the percentages of affordable housing you could hope
- **11** to get in an inclusive project. You succeeded.

To the extent that the payments -- the
Borough payments that were to be made were

14 controversial or sort of out of line with what's

15 market, the Mayor, Council President, this entire

16 governing body dug their heels in. And you had a

17 willing corporate citizen who's prepared to give up a

18 substantial sum of money to allow this project to move

**19** forward. That was not an easy ask. And that was not

20 an easy give. And you came together. So what you have

- 21 now today in front of you is no Borough payments.
- 22 Right. No Borough payments. They're paying you the
- 23 400,000 bucks. Right. You're going to get age
- **24** restriction that at the time you were going to pay
- 25 money for it and now you're getting it for free. That

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- 1 was important to you at the time because you wanted to
- 2 limit the impact on the schools of school children.
- **3** You negotiated hard for that in exchange for a payment.
- 4 Now the payment is no longer going to have to be made.
- 5 So as I sit here and listen and pay
- 6 attention -- and I was more than prepared to be
- 7 critical of the process. I was more prepared to point
- 8 out -- and we did. We had conversations about the
- **9** Borough payment. And Mayor, you and I worked closely
- 10 through that process. When you get to the end result
- 11 which is what we're at today, a fully approved project
- 12 consistent with your affordable housing obligations,
- 13 your constitutional obligation to provide affordable
- 14 housing blessed by the court, Special Master, the Fair
- 15 Share Housing, and the counterparties. Now in front of
- 16 you is what is primarily an administrative act of
- 17 forming a developer's agreement. That's what you're
- **18** faced with today. And the choice is approve that
- **19** agreement or find yourself back in the morass of court,
- **20** back at risk for immunity. For me, the recommendation
- 21 to you as I put in my written memo -- as someone asked
- 22 if I would do -- is very simple; I recommend strongly
- 23 that you approve this developer's agreement. I
- 24 recommend wholeheartedly without reservation that you
- 25 approve this developer's agreement. It is going to

- 1 allow you to continue to provide affordable housing
- which will absolutely have an impact on the town.
- 3 There's no doubt about it. Fair and assistance. Can't
- 4 be denied.

5 But the Otteau report will show and when

it's unveiled to the public it will demonstrate that

7 the net -- this will not only have -- it will have a

8 net benefit. And what I mean by that is the revenues,

**9** the taxes paid from this development will more than

10 upset amidst the costs it will provide. So those

11 taxpayers will pay more in taxes than they demand in

12 services. Net benefit for the other taxpayers

13 throughout the town, this will be a net financial

**14** benefit. It will meet your constitutional obligations.

**15** It will avoid the builder's remedy lawsuits that you

**16** will be looking forward in the future. And you've

17 spent eight years, countless meetings, countless

18 official meetings, Planning Board and otherwise,

19 turning over every stone, carefully, thoughtfully,

20 diligently considering this. Now, again, I've been at

21 three meetings now. Four or five people may disagree,

22 but I suspect that most of the town who is not here

23 would agree with me. You should complete the process.

**24** I recommend you complete the process tonight. Approve

25 the developer's agreement. Not only reluctantly, but I

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think you should embrace the job you did after eight

2 years of hard work of this Governing Body, Mayor,

3 Council President, council members, professional team,

**4** private partners. This is something that at the end of

5 the day I believe you will ultimately celebrate.

MAYOR WELSH: Thank you. Anybody on the

7 Council have any questions?

8 COUNCILMAN KARNER: Thank you, Counsel.9 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CHIMENTI: Thank you.

10 MAYOR WELSH: No questions? Do I have a

11 motion to move resolution 23-060 approving and

**12** authorizing the developer's agreement?

13 COUNCILWOMAN TWEEDIE: So moved.

14 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CHIMENTI: Second.

MAYOR WELSH: Roll call.

**16** MS. HICKS: Councilman Carty?

17 COUNCILMAN CARTY: Yes.

MS. HICKS: Council President Chimenti?

19 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CHIMENTI: Yes.

MS. HICKS: Councilman Cocoziello?

21 COUNCILMAN COCOZIELLO: I'd like to make

22 just a quick statement. And you know, just so that

23 we're all on the same page by way of background. And I

24 entirely agreement agree with some of the statements

25 that Joe made. This is a very difficult situation to

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be in. This is a fully approved project that was 1

- 2 approved by the Planning Board over a year and a half
- 3 ago. And we've been analyzing this thing many ways and

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- then come to the conclusion that whether you like it or
- not, this Governing Body cannot change that approval.
- **6** And the only thing that we can do is make sure that the
- 7 values that we as members of this community are upheld
- 8 and we protect the physical responsibility that this
- 9 community has always prided itself on for many decades.
- 10 And at this moment in time, I feel that we're faced
- 11 with a decision to move forward with something that,
- 12 you know, we might not like it, we might like it ten
- 13 years, you know, we could look back on it and who knows
- 14 what we'll think, but the result is that we're making
- 15 the best decision today with the information that we
- 16 are given.

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And I'd like to thank, first of all, the members of the public for coming out endlessly and talking about this because without them maybe we wouldn't arrive at this conclusion. And of all our professionals, Mr. Otteau, Mr. Baumann, Mr. Sordillo, and all the members of the council, Mr. Banish, and Mr. Ferraro for really working through all these details at the last minute and really trying to find the solution

2 mayor laid out at the beginning of this meeting, that

community. And I feel that with all the conditions the

that's in the best interest of the taxpayers of our

- we're in the best possible position that we're going to
- 4 be in. So I'm voting in favor of this.
- 5 MS. HICKS: Councilman Karner?
  - COUNCILMAN KARNER: I kind of agree with
- 7 -- I do agree with Councilman Cocoziello. I think this
- council has worked very hard. And Mayor and Council 8
- 9 have worked very hard in this decision. And I think
- the developers have been very congenial here in the 10
- 11 end. I appreciate that. And based on the whole
- 12 council and the town. And I'm going to vote yes.
- 13 MS. HICKS: Councilman Rinzler?
- COUNCILMAN RINZLER: I respect the 14
- 16 We've been getting a lot of advice from our
- 17 professionals and our attorneys. And we spent many,
- 18 many hundreds of hours reviewing information and having

obligations that we have to support affordable housing.

- discussions on this. And at the end of the day and 19
- 20 listening to everyone and understanding the deadlines,
- I feel in order to vote I have to vote with what's in 21
- 22 my heart. And I vote no.
- 23 MS. HICKS: And Councilwoman Tweedie?
- 24 COUNCILWOMAN TWEEDIE: Yes.
- 25 MAYOR WELSH: We're going to move on to

- consent agenda. Consent agenda. The items listed
- 2 within the consent agenda portion of the meeting have
- been referred to the Borough Council for reading and
- study, a copy placed on the table in the meeting room,
- and is considered routine and will be enacted with one
- motion the Borough Council with no separate decision.
- 7 If separate discussion is required, the items may be
- removed from the agenda by the Borough Council action
- 9 and be placed on the regular agenda under new business.
- 10 For resolution 23-061, accepting resignation of a
- 11 police officer. We have resolution 23-062,
- 12 authorization contribution to Raritan Headwaters
- 13 Association via Clean Communities Grant. We have
- 14 resolution 23-063, payment of Bill List in the amount

15 of \$59,784.15.

16 COUNCILMAN KARNER: Mayor, I'll make a 17 motion to move resolution -- resolutions 23-061 through 18 23-063.

19 MAYOR WELSH: Have a second?

20 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CHIMENTI: Second.

21 MAYOR WELSH: Roll call.

22 MR. SORDILLO: Mayor, could I just -- I

23 just want to clarify for the record. On this I do it

24 every year on the donation. Because the municipality's

25 not allowed to expend -- especially because of new

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- 1 council members. The municipality's not allowed by New
- 2 Jersey Constitution to expend taxpayers' money towards
- 3 any nonprofit-type of organization or donation-type
- **4** situation. So this actually isn't taxpayers' money.
- 5 This is grants that the Borough receives that we're
- 6 actually just acting basically as a through. But every
- year we adopt this resolution, every year I just want 7
- 8 to make sure the record's clear that this is not
- 9 taxpayer fund, this is just grant monies that we
- 10 received that is going to the Raritan headquarters.

11 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CHIMENTI: And the

12 amount is 5 --

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13 MR. SORDILLO: \$500.

MS. HICKS: For their cleanup that's

15 going to be April 15th. Roll call then?

MAYOR WELSH: Yes. Roll call, please.

17 MS. HICKS: Councilman Carty?

18 COUNCILMAN CARTY: Yes.

19 MS. HICKS: Council President Chimenti?

20 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CHIMENTI: Yes.

21 MS, HICKS: Councilman Cocoziello? 22 COUNCILMAN COCOZIELLO: Yes.

23 MS. HICKS: Councilman Karner? 24

COUNCILMAN KARNER: Yes. 25 MS. HICKS: Councilman Rinzler?

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	1	COUNCILMAN RINZLER: Yes.						
ĺ	2	MS. HICKS: Councilwoman Tweedie?						
	3	COUNCILWOMAN TWEEDIE: Yes.						
	4	MAYOR WELSH: I'm going to move on to						
	5	the public comment section. The Mayor and Council						
	6	welcome comments from any member of the public to help						
	7	facilitate an orderly meeting and permit the						
	8	opportunity for anyone who wishes to be heard.						
	9	Speakers should limit their comments to five minutes.						
	10	Can I get a motion to open the public portion?						
	11	COUNCILMAN KARNER: I make a motion to						
	12	open up the public comment.						
	13	MAYOR WELSH: Have a second.						
	14	COUNCIL PRESIDENT CHIMENTI: Second.						
	15	MAYOR WELSH: All those in favor.						
	16	[All responded "aye."]						
	17	MAYOR WELSH: Come up.						
	18	MS. DUFFY: I would be remiss if I						
	19	didn't point out that the 6.9 million that was taken						
	20	back or however you want to make this sound like a						
	21	gift, should never have been done to begin with. And						
	22	anybody knows that, truly knows that. So the tone						
	23	should be it's great. This has been you know,						
-	24	there's remedy here, but to start by saying how						
	25	gracious and wonderful, it shouldn't have happened to						
		54						
	1	hegin with And you don't need to agree with me						

2 because all of you look like Stepford wives. That's 3 not the point. The point is it shouldn't have 4 happened. And you know that. MAYOR WELSH: Anyone else from the 5 public like to approach? Please step forward. 6 MR. MELLENDICK: George Mellendick, Lake 7 Road. There's been a lot of discussion throughout 8 these hearings. And there has been a lot of discussion 9 at meetings about this. The Planning Board meets about 10 once a month and almost every month. When the meeting 11 occurs this is discussed. There's no doubt about it. 12 There's been this metaphor of buying and selling and 13 lemons. One of the things I'm still very unclear 14 about, getting back to purchase and sales agreement, is 15 16 what price point -- because the price point in these discussions over the years has been all over the place. 17 So what is the price point of these units? 18 19 MAYOR WELSH: So I could speak to that if you'd like. You're going to see this tomorrow when 20 you read the Otteau report. You're looking at 21 22 1.25 million to 1.5 million per unit. 23 MR. MELLENDICK: And that's what you're

MAYOR WELSH: That's what the Otteau

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committed to for these units?

55 report during their investigation --MR. MELLENDICK: I'm not understanding 2 3 this. So you're saying 1.250 and you both are shaking your head no. So I'm not understanding. MAYOR WELSH: They didn't say no. They 5 didn't they're committed. That's what the report shows 6 from Otteau. That's what they feel the fair value is for that property. 8 9 MR. MELLENDICK: When you both presented, you talked about a price point for these 11 units. And initially that was around a million. And 12 at some points it went above that. And then it kind of 13 fluctuated. And at some of the meetings numbers in the **14** 8s were mentioned. So I'm wondering what it actually 15 is. When you build a unit -- again, I'm not a builder, 16 but I am a buyer. And when you go into a property you 17 have a sense is this a half million dollar place or is 18 this a million dollar place or is it 1.5 in ballpark 19 terms. So when you build it, the plans are as, I said 20 at the meeting when these were presented very, very nonspecific. They look like cardboard boxes. There 21 22 was no details or anything given as to their -- as to 23 the contents or how they were built. So what -- when you build them, surely you have to have some kind of target price mark -- some market that you're going for.

The way you build a \$250,000 house is not the way you build a \$2 million home. That's kind of what I'm 2 saying. So when you put it altogether, what are you 4 going after? What's the number for the market value? What market are you going for? That's all I'm asking. 5 MR. ANTHONY MELILLO: I think that was 6 7 given in the Planning Board meeting. I think Pulty attested to a number that they felt was conservative 8 9 but that they felt was the market at the time. MR. MELLENDICK: And what was that 10 number? 11 MR. ANTHONY MELILLO: I think they gave 12 13 8s into the 9s. MR. MULLEN: 8 to 900. But again, it be 14 15 market driven and whatever the public is going to pay. MR. SORDILLO: Mayor, if I may, this is 16

MR. ANTHONY MELILLO: I think they gave 8s into the 9s.

MR. MULLEN: 8 to 900. But again, it be market driven and whatever the public is going to pay.

MR. SORDILLO: Mayor, if I may, this is kind of a side discussion. During public comment everything should be going through the Mayor as the Chairman of the public -- of the meeting. So I think any questions should be asked of the mayor. If the mayor can't ask, you can ask the professional.

MAYOR WELSH: Let me just clarify. The report says 1.25 to 1.5. That's what the report says. You haven't seen it yet. That's what the report says. It's always been communicated by Melillo that we're in

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1 just want to say I speak on behalf of people who don't 2 come to these meetings who put their trust in you who 3 are saying thank you. We appreciate the work that you did. We're always going to be people who are going to 4 descend, but the majority of this town is going to 5 thank you for what you did. And you have validated their trust. Thank you. 7 8 MAYOR WELSH: Thank you. I appreciate that, Jim. Does anybody else like to share a public 9

1 the 850, 900 range. Markets have changed significantly

5 that doesn't make any sense to me because those are two

developments, 800 versus, say, 1.2. They just are. So

that makes no sense to me whatever. And Otteau doesn't

MAYOR WELSH: It's from the market.

MAYOR WELSH: Anyone else from the

Mr. Mayor, in November of last year the clear majority

of the citizens of Far Hills put their trust in you to

this. You've steered us clear of lawsuits. You've

24 until five minutes ago apparently was a very big thing,

now all of a sudden it's not a big thing anymore. I

lead this town. You've been on the job for little over

two months. And in that time you've navigated through

kept us away from the ire of the Fair Housing board and

MS. CHIMENTI: Comparable market units.

MR. CHIMENTI: Jim Chimenti, Lake Road.

MR. MELLENDICK: See, that's the part

2 over the last few years. And I think that's, you know,

6 very different markets, those are two very different

9 have -- he's not pulling the number out of a hat. He has to be basing that on information he's given from

public have a comment they'd like to share?

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comment?

going to stand.

someone; right?

MAYOR WELSH: Let me close the meeting 12 13 from -- first. Let's close the meeting --COUNCILMAN KARNER: If there's no more 14 public comment, I'd like to close the public comment 15 16 session.

COUNCILMAN RINZLER: Yes, I would.

MAYOR WELSH: Second? 17 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CHIMENTI: Second. 18 MAYOR WELSH: All in favor? 19 20 [All responded "aye."]

21 MAYOR WELSH: Rick, you have something 22 you'd like to share?

COUNCILMAN RINZLER: Yes. I just wanted 23 to add to the previous comment. I can assure you that 24 every single person sitting behind this desk has spent 25

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