1	MINUTES
2	OF THE MEETING
3	OF THE
4	PUBLIC HEARING/BUDGET
5	INCORPORATED VILLAGE OF FLORAL PARK
6	April 10, 2024
7	8:00 p.m.
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10	PRESENT:
11	KEVIN M. FITZGERALD, MAYOR
12	DR. LYNN POMBONYO, DEPUTY MAYOR/TRUSTEE
13	FRANK J. CHIARA, TRUSTEE
14	JENNIFER STEWART, TRUSTEE
15	MICHAEL LONGOBARDI, TRUSTEE
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23	TENTATIVE 2024/2025 BUDGET PRESENTATION
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1	ALSO	
2		PRESENT:
3		GERARD BAMBRICK, Village Administrator
4		STEVE ARNONE, Deputy Treasurer
5		MIKE DERBY, Village Assessor & Deputy Tax Collector
6		PAT EREN, Library Director
7		LT. WILLIAM DOHERTY, Police Department
8		RENEE MARCUS, Supt. Of Bldgs.
9		KEVIN GINNANE, Supt. Of Public Works
10		KURT MEYFORHRT, Supt. of Recreation
11		GIL LUGER, 2nd Assistant Chief
12		JOSEPH O'GRADY, Deputy Supt. of Public Works
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MAYOR FITZGERALD: So now we will go to the second hearing, which is the public hearing and the local law about the 2024/2025 budget, which runs from June 1, 2024 through May 31, 2025.

I will do this as we've done over the last couple of years, the Village Administrator Bambrick will introduce

of years, the Village Administrator Bambrick will introduce the budget with some commentary, I'll have some commentary and then we will go through it department to department with the trustee liaisons describing the changes in the budget on each one of the departments that they liaise to. After that we will open it up for questions or comments from the public.

There were budgets in Village Hall for people to have them $\ensuremath{\text{--}}$

GERARD BAMBRICK: Yes.

MAYOR FITZGERALD: -- if they have questions?

They will be up on the big screen and on Zoom also.

So with that, I would like to ask Village Administrator Bambrick to read the public notice.

GERARD BAMBRICK: Legal Notice to the Taxpayers of the Incorporated Village of Floral Park.

Notice is hereby given that the tentative budget for the Incorporated Village of Floral Park for year

June 1, 2024 to May 31, 2025 has been completed by the

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Budget Officer and a copy filed in the Office of the Village Clerk at Village Hall where same will be available for public inspection during office hours Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. until April 10, 2024.

The Budget Hearing will be held on Wednesday,
April 10, 2024 and will begin at 8:00 p.m., immediately
after the Proposed Local Law Number 1 of 2024 Public
Hearing, in Village Hall Courtroom, 1 Floral Boulevard,
Floral Park, New York, and be also available by way of
video or tele-conference as follows, as listed in the
notice.

The purpose of the Budget Hearing is to hear any and all interested persons in connection therewith and consider such budget for final adoption. Only budget business shall be discussed at this meeting. Copies of the Tentative Budget will be available commencing Monday, April 1, 2024, between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. at Village Hall.

The maximum compensation proposed from all sources under such budget to the Village Justice is \$10,000, the Mayor \$10,000, and each Trustee \$5,000 per year.

By order of the Board of Trustees, Susan E. Walsh, Village Clerk, dated March 22, 2024 and March 29, 2024.

MAYOR FITZGERALD: Thank you.

You know what, I'll read my statement and then we

will go to yours.

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GERARD BAMBRICK: Sure.

MAYOR FITZGERALD: As with most life over the past few years, many of the costs associated with providing the Village services continues to rise. This upcoming year will certainly be no exception to that as inflation continues to have a significant impact on our daily lives.

In preparing the draft budget, and this process starts the beginning of January, we treat every dollar as if it was our own and, as you would do, and work to ensure the best possible use of it at the most economical value possible. To that end, the proposed tax levy increase for 2024-2025 is below the New York State Tax Cap. The 2.43 proposed tax levy increase, which is a \$675,000 increase, does not exceed the tax cap for this year, which is right at 2.45 percent. And Village Administrator Bambrick will explain that in a minute. With this increase the budget accomplishes a lot while dealing with the most significant inflationary increases in the United States as we experienced in quite some time, over the last two years or so.

A few examples of some of the increases are, a nearly 33 percent increase in the Village's required deposit into the State Retirement Fund, which is for the general employees and the CSEA, and a 10 percent increase

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in the police retirement fund; additionally the budget absorbs nearly a 7 percent increase in health insurance costs, which is a 6.5 percent increase, which equals \$296,000; it also increases the pay rate at the park, pool and library for seasonal staff; the budget also absorbs a significant increase in interest rates for financing of the many capital projects, which is offset to a certain degree by interest income we receive on our own funds; and it continues to pay down sizable accrued police termination pay liability, which is now \$384,000 for this upcoming year, down from last year's \$837,000.

Additionally, we continue to need to invest in the future of the Village by, one, replacing life-saving firematic and police equipment and vehicles to make sure that in an emergency these vehicles and equipment reliably perform; two, maintaining our roads; and, three, investing in other long term infrastructures of the Village, such as drainage projects. These investments in the future can be costly and must be financed, which has been significantly impacted by the increase of interest rates for financing many of these projects.

Lastly, a few weeks ago the Village once again received a "No Designation" from the New York State

Comptroller's Office on their objective review of the Village's finances. In this rating, the lower the number

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the better, and the Village has seen this number decrease over the past few years. This is a sign of both good budgeting and fiscal management throughout the year.

And with that, before we move into the individual departments, I would like to thank Village Administrator and Treasurer Bambrick, Deputy Treasurer Steven Arnone along with their staffs for their tireless efforts in putting together this upcoming budget which, as I said, started in January.

Additionally, I would like to thank all the department heads and supervisors and the Library Board for their efforts and inputs during the drafting of the budgets for the respective departments. Their diligence in keeping budgetary requests in their respective departments within reason, while knowing that we need to strike the right balance of ensuring our services remain, as they always have been, while facing these inflationary headwinds is most appreciated.

With that I will turn it back to Village Administrator Bambrick.

GERARD BAMBRICK: Thank you, Mayor.

I think I'll give the same presentation I've given for the last several years, painfully boring, but don't worry.

This is the Village's 13th proposed budget after

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the enactment of New York State tax cap law. By now I think most people are generally familiar with the general parameters of the tax cap law, I still think there is still a good amount of confusion regarding it, and I think that's due primarily to the fact that there are several factors that go into calculating the tax cap.

The first factor is the tax cap is not 2 percent. The formula established by the State, based on information and factors set by the State, and the biggest of these factors is the allowable growth factor. The allowable growth factor is assigned by the State and it's the lower -- either 2 percent or the rate of inflation, whichever is lower. And that's where I think -- that is where the 2 percent tax cap derives its name. In the past years the allowable growth factor with the Village has been as low as 0.12 percent, or as high as 2 percent. This year with inflation just recently set at 3.2 percent in February, I think today they came out with 3.5 percent inflation rate. The allowable growth factor for Floral Park and for every municipality that has a June 1st budget start date is 2 percent.

Another factor that is added to the tax cap is return on tax base growth factor. The tax base growth factor is also assigned by the State and it's assigned for each separate municipality based on what they describe as

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increases in the tax base based on new construction or measurable improvements to a taxable property within the Village.

For the coming fiscal year improvements to residences and commercial properties in the Village generated approximately \$288,000 in new assessed valuations for the Village. Most of that increase is based on improvements to existing buildings and a few new residential constructions.

Based on that positive growth in the Village, the State gave the Village a tax base growth factor of 0.1 percent that's added to the 2 percent, that is based on the tax factor growth based on the inflation rate.

Another factor that impacts the tax cap is what's termed, "pension exclusion", sometimes it's applicable -- it's applicable years with the pension rates that the State imposes or the State requires contributions for, grows significantly, and this year it is growing significantly.

As the Mayor alluded to or stated, that the tax -the required pension contributions have grown a lot since
last year. If you are familiar with the pension system,
there is six tiers for the pension system, each tier has
its own contribution rate, and those increases in the rates
have increased from 14 to 19 percent by each tier. That
increase translates into projections of over \$500,000 that

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the Village has to pay extra or over and above last year's projections for the pension costs. So based on the State formula we get to exclude a certain portion of that increase from the tax cap calculation.

As I mentioned, the projection is to be over \$500,000, and the Village is able to exclude \$95,000 of that amount from the tax cap calculation.

So based on those factors, the 2 percent allowable growth factor, the .1 percent tax base growth factor and the \$95,000 pension exclusion, the tax cap for Floral Park for the coming year is 2.45 percent. The proposed tax levy is 2.43 percent in the tentative budget and does not exceed the tax cap.

To explain this we have a chart of the tax cap formula which will take us through the calculations. As I mentioned, it starts with the prior year tax levy. Last year's tax levy was \$27,800,000, this year we apply a .1 percent increase to that, based on the tax base growth factor, that brings us to \$27,827,800. There is no -- then the State adds in the formula PILOT payments, we have no PILOT payments, we haven't had any PILOT payments since 15 Verbeena, next year we will be having PILOT payments based on Centennial Hall and possibly other properties. So then you apply to that amount the allowable growth factor of 2 percent, that brings the calculation to \$28,384,356, and

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then you add back -- then you add in the pension exclusion of \$95,529. That brings the tax levy limit for the coming fiscal year 2024/2025 to \$28,479,885. That is a 2.45 percent increase over the \$27,800,000 tax levy for fiscal year 2023/2024, our current fiscal year.

As you see in the book, the budget book, the proposed tax levy is \$28,475,000, that is a 2.43 percent increase over the \$27,800,000, and that's under the tax cap.

I think there's several other things that need to be understood to understand how your tax bill is calculated, and that's the tax rate. The tax cap applies to the tax levy. And the tax levy is the amount for which the Village needs to raise by taxes after taking into consideration all the revenue sources the Village generates, then to pay off the projected expenses that the Village will have for the coming year.

The tax levy is important in setting the tax rate, but it does not -- it isn't the final determination on what your tax increase will be, that will be based on what your tax rate is. It's the tax rate that's multiplied by the assessed valuation of your house which determines your tax bill for the coming year.

To determine the tax rate, if you have your book, your budget book, Roman Numeral page one, it's up on the

screen right now, all taxable -- all properties in the Village have an assessed value -- sorry.

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MAYOR FITZGERALD: Is that the right slide?

GERARD BAMBRICK: Yes, it's the right slide.

So your tax rate starts by taking the tax levy of 27 -- \$28,475,000 and dividing it by the total taxable assessed valuations of the property, of all properties in the Village.

If you go to the next slide, page two. Last year the tax rate was \$14.6712 per \$100 assessed valuation, and that was determined by the tax levy of \$27,800,000 divided by the assessed valuation of all taxable properties of \$189,486,789. This year the tax rate is 15.0392 per \$100 of assessed valuation, and that's determined by taking the assessed valuation of all taxable properties of \$189,338,338 as divided by the tax levy of \$28,475,000.

This year the assessed valuation of all taxable properties decreased a bit because of several factors, based on that decrease it actually decreased by \$149,000 -- yeah, \$148,451 decrease in assessed valuation of all taxable properties. So that factored the assessed valuation tax of properties decreased -- slightly decreased the tax rate. Instead of being 2.43 percent, the tax levy is 2.5 percent, total assessed valuation decreased a bit.

Now a lot of factors go into determining the

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assessed valuation of taxable properties. There are many exemptions, all church properties are exempt, Village properties are exempt. I mentioned before work in the Village increases it, the assessed valuation, that went up by \$288,000, but there were a few factors that went down. A year or so ago we granted a tax exemption to senior citizens by increased tax exemption by raising the income limit, that had an effect of increasing the number of exemptions available to them. This year I think the two major factors are there were a significant amount of residential challenges that decreased the -- increased the -- decreased the assessed valuations, and also the State changed the equalization rate which negatively, for the Village perspective, impacted the special franchises, which are properties like the phone company and other, similar to utilities, but not exactly utilities.

So based on that the total assessed valuation of taxable properties went down, as I mentioned, by \$148,451, and that has an impact of slightly increasing the tax rate.

Now, to make that -- how that translates to impact the taxpayer is, we have the slide that is in the Village items. The assessed value of the average home in the Village this year is \$37,693, that's up there on the chart. That's determined by assessed value of all residential properties in the Village, there's 167 million plus

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dollars, and we divide it by the number of residential parcels in the Village, that's 4,432 residential parcels, and that's how you get the average of \$37,693.

This year the tax rate of \$15.0392 for each \$100 in assessed valuation will result in a total tax on the average home of \$5,669. At last year's rate the 14.6712 for each \$100 assessed valuation, the tax bill in the same average home, would've been \$5,530. So the proposed tax rate represents a \$139 increase for the average residential property. Now that's the average. If your home is valued higher or lower your tax increase will be higher or lower based on whether or not you are the average or below the average.

That's basically the big pitch on how your tax bill is determined based on the amount of money the Village needs to raise to pay all the projected costs for the Village, less the revenues we will generate that are not taxes, about \$4 to \$5 million, and then the balance has to be made up by the tax levy, and that tax levy amount is divided by all the taxable properties in the Village, and then that's how your bill gets determined.

Like the Mayor, I want to thank all the department heads and staff for all the work in getting this done.

This does take quite a while to gather all the information and apply all the factors, and also to apply, go through

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and carve out and hone down the budget to a number that, you know, delivers the best bang for the buck, a reasonable balance of increasing and improving services, while also being fiscally responsible. And I especially want to thank Deputy Treasurer Steve Arnone, Deputy Village Administrator Darlene Lanza, in addition to all the department heads for all the work that went into getting us to this point. Thank you.

And I'll pass it on to you, Mayor.

MAYOR FITZGERALD: Thank you, Village Administrator Bambrick.

And thank you for doing the best job possible to narrow down what is a very complicated formula that's, you know, put upon us by the State, and we do appreciate that.

I think the slide that's up is probably the easiest thing for most people to understand, that's what that boils down to, give or take, depending on what the assessed value of your home is.

So with that I'll go through revenues and I'll turn it over to our trustee liaisons.

Just a couple of things on revenues. Some of the differences or the increases in revenues is good is, as mentioned in my opening statement, interest rates have gone up and, you know, the budgeting for the \$150,000 increase

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in interest rate revenue this year, and the other thing that I guess has been going up slightly, but is still not back to pre-Covid levels, is the parking meter fees. So appreciate all the work that the neighborhood aides do.

And one other thing that has gone up, it's probably back to pre-Covid levels, is the amount of money that we are collecting from court fines, whether that be tickets, violations or other summonses, so thank you to our great Police Department, neighborhood aides and building inspectors that take care of that and make the Village safe and ensure people are compliant by issuing those fines when and where necessary and the court office administrator.

With that I will turn it over to Deputy Mayor Pombonyo to go through the Police Department budget.

TRUSTEE POMBONYO: Thank you, Mayor.

Thank you, Mayor, and welcome all.

I would like to tell you about the Police

Department. The Floral Park Police Department was

established in 1918 with two officers and a police booth on
the southeast corner of south Tyson Avenue and Jericho

Turnpike. Today 106 years later, the size of our Village
and the need for strong law enforcement have expanded our
department and range and complexity of our services that it
offers.

The Police Department budget is detailed on pages

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19 to 20 of our budget book. You will see Code 001.3120 on all the public safety police expenditure lines.

The first line 3120.0100, personal services, is a salary line. You will notice throughout that all of our departments that the 0100 will designate personal services or salaries.

Our department is comprised of our commissioner, 34 police officers, including our lieutenants, sergeants, detectives, six dispatchers, six neighborhood aides who do parking enforcement, and seven crossing guards. There is a \$199,456 increase in this line, which represents the step increases for 16 of our newest officers, those who have been working for the fewest years in our department and came on board in such large numbers because we had so many retirements in the past few years. This will help to phase in their new officers' salary to the department levels in approximately seven to eight years.

Code 0103, termination pay, represents the total amounts that officers contractually receive upon their retirement or resignation. Six of those long time, highly experienced officers now retired have completed their payments. This represents a \$453,698 reduction in the Code 0103. Others more recently retired benefits will continue into the future.

Code 0105 is also a salary code for personal

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service Police Department training. This is a very important expenditure. All of our officers are required to undergo AED, that's automated external defibrillator training, CPR training and Narcan refresher training every two years, all of our department, and two days of firearms refresher training every year.

In addition, other crucial training includes body worn cameras, active shooter, law changes, policies and procedures and many others taught by in-house trained police instructors who receive overtime pay for their teaching of other officers working on regular time during their training days. This model works very well in our department and is now financed at \$50,000 by our Code 0105.

Code 0200, equipment, is reduced by \$2,054 following the 2023/2024 for purchase of radios, which once they are replaced we don't need to make any expenditures for radios.

Code 0207, uniforms, has been increased by \$5,000 to cover all Police Department uniform personnel, not just our police officers, the others that I mentioned.

Code 0210, Police CAD system, is a shared service initiative with the Port Washington Police Department, using state of the art technology, CAD, or computer aided design, enables the police visually, auditorily and by

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touch screen to integrate communication among the Floral Park Police Department, the Nassau County Police Department, Firecom for fire and ambulance calls.

This enabled FPPD to have access to Nassau County
Police communications during a serious police incident
taking place on Jericho Turnpike in Bellerose Terrace last
Friday night. Our dispatchers credited CAD with increased
speed and efficiency, it was very valuable when Nassau
County was working so hard so close to our Floral Park
borders and the Floral Park/Bellerose school.

Now installed, future CAD service expenses will be consolidated in a designated computer code in the 001.1345 category on page ten. So they are being transferred to another code within the budget for greater accuracy and consolidation of our computer services.

Code 0211, equipment-body camera, is another important code. Following training that extended from June to October of 2023, our officers wear bodycams. What the \$37,975 fee allocation is for video storage in 2024/2025. The bodycams that have been paid for.

Code 0401, gasoline and oil, has a \$2,000 increase to service the department fleet of vehicles.

Code 0406, supplies, including ammunition, has a \$1,928 increase for the higher costs, that include the ammunition, blankets, masks, first-aid supplies, flares,

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tape, laser batteries and cartridges, and other important supplies that the police need.

Code 0412, equipment, cleaning allowance, has an increase of \$5,850 for dry cleaning equipment and shoes, which is contractual.

Code 0414, finger printing search, shows no allocation. Our department has invested in prior years in a state of the art finger printing technology that expedites on-site finger printing that immediately is communicated to Nassau County and New York State Police, as well as the FBI, facilitating the valuable exchange of information about those who are finger printed amongst multiple agencies to ensure the proper police follow-up in real time, that's very important. This important technology was 80 percent funded, \$20,000, through a New York State Division of Criminal Justice Service Grant obtained by our Police Department, they are very expert at obtaining grants for some of their new initiatives.

Code 0418, telephone, reduces the budget by \$72 for equipment, usage, cell phones and vehicle computers.

The good news is that the Village is changing the phone and internet provider which is projected for even further reduction in costs.

Code 0445, subscriptions, texts and manuals, a \$1,052 increase covers all computer software,

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subscriptions, maintenance and warranties, which are always being updated.

\$3,000 reduction also because computer technology expenses in this area are being transferred to that designated computer code I told you about 001.1345 on page ten for better tracking and monitoring costs.

Code 0460, repairs to mobile or vehicle equipment, will be decreased by \$5,000. It is expected that the purchase of two new police vehicles will be replaced to older ones and the need for repairs.

And Code 0481, in-service training including travel, the \$50,000 reduction overtime training cost has been transferred within the Police Department budget to the new personal services Police Department training Line 0105 that I explained earlier in the beginning of my presentation.

In total, the public safety police budget, all in Codes 3120, is proposed at \$8,013,872, a 3.02 percent, or \$249,338 decrease. This is due to the close scrutiny, review and adjustments made with this budget as it was constructed by our Police Department leadership,

Commissioner Steven McAllister and Lieutenant Thomas

McCarthy and William Doherty, who is here tonight in the audience, with the collaboration of Village Administrator

1 Gerry Bambrick and Deputy Treasurer Steven Arnone. 2 Our Floral Park Police Department has responded to 5,112 calls for service in 2022, 5,247 calls for service in 3 2023, and 1,184 calls for service to date in 2024, that's 4 5 over three months. In addition to the department's traffic stops, 6 7 school and other site visits and directed patrols for reported specific infractions, so that's in addition to the 8 9 calls that I just mentioned. Our police are out there for us 24/7/365 days a 10 11 year. We thank them for their outstanding service and 12 appreciate the community's support. 1.3 MAYOR FITZGERALD: Thank you, Deputy Mayor 14 Pombonyo. 15 And now I'll turn it over to Trustee Stewart to 16 lead us through everything at the Department of Public 17 Works, which is a lot. 18 TRUSTEE STEWART: Thank you, Mr. Mayor. 19 Good evening, all. Thank you for coming. 20 The Department of Public Works' responsibilities 21 include, but are not limited to, sanitation, fleet 22 management, road maintenance and public buildings

In Floral Park some of the most visible work DPW does is putting up our lovely holiday lights, and this year

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management.

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due to our very successful military banner program, DPW also hung, removed and is rehanging and will re-remove the military banners honoring our local veteran heroes.

I would like to thank Superintendent Ginnane for all of his work putting together this massive portion of the budget, as well as Deputy Superintendent Joe O'Grady, and for the time that they spend walking me through the different facets of their vast department.

So for the shared services in buildings, our personal services line covers one assistant supervisor, a senior maintainer, a cleaner and a part-time cleaner.

We have many building maintenance and construction projects that we do in-house, this keeps the cost down as much as possible so that we don't have to hire outside contractors just to do some of the work.

Line 406 for supplies, there is a decrease there because we had many available supplies in stock.

Superintendent Ginnane and his staff took inventory and realized that we did not have to a have an increase in that line.

0416, electricity and gas, there is a huge reduction there based on our jobs and control efficiency modifications.

The increase at the 0450 line for Village Hall is because this is a very old building and it requires an

exorbitant amount of maintenance.

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For our essential garage shared services, the personal services include salary and benefits for one mechanic supervisor, two mechanics, an automotive mechanic aide and a part time auto mechanic servicer. We are constantly looking for ways to train and improve the services that our mechanics are able to provide and we are very happy to do that.

We have a Line 0401 for gasoline and oil for one truck; we have Line 0416, electricity and gas, once again reduced based on our jobs and controls projections.

For our transportation and DPW administration,
Line 0100, as Deputy Mayor Pombonyo indicated, that's
always our personnel line, salaries for a superintendent, a
deputy superintendent, a full-time clerk and a portion of
another clerk's salary.

Line 0200 for equipment, we have a slight increase for a new laptop which will allow us to monitor certain code violations with a little bit more efficiency.

Line Number 0455, there is a decrease in that for the computer technician, maintenance fees, repairs to printers, believe it or not, a typewriter. Those costs are trending lower. We have a couple of typewriters around.

0460, repairs to auto, we hear -- in this line there is an increase because everything is just more

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expensive. However, while this is an increase, it keeps our costs down by maintaining the vehicles that we have in our fleet as opposed to replacing them with newer more expensive vehicles.

Transportation and street maintenance. Again our personal services on Line 0100, two supervisors, three drivers, six laborers, two part-time laborers, six seasonal laborers, we see a slight decrease there because we reassign personnel to other departments as we need them.

one one of you will agree which is why Floral Park is such a great place to live, our community events such as our two 5Ks, The Hance Family Fun Day, homecoming parade, little league parade, all of these things DPW does a lot of work behind the scenes in getting us prepared for, as well as cleaning up afterwards.

Line 0200, the equipment, this has been decreased by more than 60 percent because we have purchases in years past and we don't expect to have to purchase as many new items such as wrenches, shop vacs, tar kettle as we have in the past.

0450, sidewalk and curb repair. This reflects the things that the Village is responsible for such as 88 curb

cuts, repairs to Village property from road program, as well as our tree removal program.

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Staying here. Moving on to snow removal. As we have not had too much snow removal in the past, there is not a terrible amount of change here. There is a change in the supply line. Again, nearly over a 60 percent decrease because we have a stock pile of salt that we have purchased and we have not used. I say fortunately, other people think that we should have snow, so that's a personal opinion.

Street lighting, we have Line 0435. We have an annual maintenance contract, we have less need for outside contractor help because of our transition to LED lights, so not only does it save us on maintenance, it also saves us on our electricity bill.

Off-street parking, Line 0100, the personal services, we have a salary for one meter attendant.

Line 0200, equipment, we have instituted Flowbird parking meters, which decreases our need for repairing the coin operated meters in certain -- in the Creedmoor lot and at the lot between the library and the Long Island Rail Road.

Line 0500, Creedmoor rental fees. That Creedmoor spur that I just referenced is actually leased by the Village from the MTA. We actually had a four year break

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from paying that leasing fee during Covid, but now Covid is over and the fees have returned.

Line 0400, our holiday decorations, which I referenced in my opening. It is such a wonderful feature in our Village, the wreaths and lights and bows that decorate our main streets during the holiday season, as well as our military banners that we had up in November and we have again.

I think -- am I done? No.

Sanitation -- this is long, this is the longest you will ever hear me speak. Personal services for refuse and garbage, 0100. One supervisor, 13 MEOs, two recyclers, we have a slight decrease there due to retirements.

I want to point something out about our co-mingled recycling program. Our Superintendent Ginnane realized that we could actualize a savings by revamping our recycling program, and that's why we had the change to different days for cardboard and for plastics and glass. There was some concern among the residents that it wasn't really working for them, and Superintendent Ginnane and his staff revamped the calendar so that no resident would be left with their recycling on a holiday week. I really appreciate the efforts to both be fiscally responsible and respond to our residents' needs.

We are faced with very -- with an expense for our

residential waste and bulk items, there is a slight increase of 4.23 percent because it reflects the contractual increase with Covanta who takes our garbage.

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We also have on Line 0438 a disposal fee for yard waste. It's just contractual, we are bound -- we have to have a place to get rid of our garbage. And that's it for that.

Street cleaning, which is another very visible part of what DPW does, keeping our streets clean, neat and safe. Personal services, Line 0100, salaries for two sweepers, it decreased because one senior employee is retiring and will be replaced by a more junior employee at a lower starting salary.

Personal services overtime, 0102, special events, weather related events. There is an increase here due to our street fairs, our holiday tree lighting ceremony at the holiday time. Unfortunately we have had some large funerals as well, which require the assistance of our street sweepers to make everything go smoothly for those families and friends.

Storm and sewer. It just gets better and better. So you know these are the things that we have to do in order to make sure our Village continues to run well.

0416, the electricity at the sump, it has been

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decreased based on past costs and newer technology.

Superintendent Ginnane was able to monitor the Belmont pumping station remotely and start them when needed, which I think is really spectacular.

Professional services, which is Line 0430, engineering services for storm water management and engineering for storm drainage projects, which is very, very important to keep our streets water -- well, I don't want to say water free, but less water.

Shade trees. So this is one of the things that we are most known for, we have been a designated tree city for over 20 years, it is something that we are very proud of and intend to continue for a very long time.

So our personal services on Line 0100, one senior tree pruner, one tree pruner and a laborer. The overtime we have, it's trending up slightly because we have begun the practice of alerting staff that we may need them and bring them in before the emergency happens or the weather happens.

We also, on Line 0406, we have tree sitting flags that we are proud to display.

0430 we have line item for a consultant, for an arborist that is really important to us because when we need to remove trees we only remove them due to safety or the health of the tree, we don't just remove them for the

sake of removing them.

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In the last year of 2023 we removed 150 Village trees and yet we planted 300, so it's a two for one there, and I think that's really, really important.

Superintendant Ginnane and his staff make it a point to ask for the residents' input when they lose a tree on the Village property, what kind of tree might they like, what kind of trees are available, and really works with the residents to get something that they want.

0460, repairs to trucks. Inspection and repair of eight vehicles. Equipment is very expensive to fix. This year it was very high because we spent a little over \$20,000 just to repair the wood chipper. And we tried to do as much trimming in-house to save on hiring outside Village contractors.

And that, Mr. Mayor, finishes DPW.

MAYOR FITZGERALD: Thank you very much. There's a lot there.

If I could just add one comment to that, with some of the overtime lines, they also include overtime for another successful project that we've done or started a couple of years ago where on Saturdays a small crew comes in to do projects that just can't get done during the week, for whatever reason, and the last thing they do before they go home is go through the commercial districts and pick up

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and empty the garbage bins which goes a long way to keeping the Village look the way it does. People probably don't know it's happening but would notice if it wasn't happening.

With that I would like to turn it over to Trustee Longobardi and the Rec Center.

TRUSTEE LONGOBARDI: Thank you, Mr. Mayor.

Good evening, everybody. Thank you for being here.

The Recreation Center of Floral Park Village is blessed to have a full service recreation center with programs available for all ages all year round. Our recreation center offers tennis, basketball, volley ball, pickle ball, hockey, football, baseball, softball, kickball and aerobics, just to name a few.

These are seasonal sports that run year round for our littlest kids in T-ball to our senior adult softball league. They range in recreational social leagues to competitive leagues in all divisions.

In addition to sports programs, we offer summer youth programs, including half day kiddie programs, primary grade recreation programs, preschool programs, morning sports programs and afternoon cornhole, and the adults as well. Formal league programs include Floral Park Little League, Indians, Titans, Youth Council and Knights

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softball. These are just some of the many activities that go on in our beautiful park.

Organizing all this and keeping it running is not an easy task. Thanks to the efforts of Superintendent Kurt Meyfohrt and his staff of full-time and part-time employees that keep the park operating for all to enjoy 24/7/365.

The current budget to keep all this going is approximately \$975,000. The requested budget changes for the coming year include the personal services, Line 0100, there's actually a slight decline of 1.64 percent, approximately \$7,000, that's due to adjustments between the lines and classifying the employees.

Line 0102, a very slight decline there as well, with the reclassification of some personnel, there is a slight decline in the overtime line.

Line 0200, for equipment, there is an increase there of approximately 12 percent, and that just has to do with the changes in new equipment that we need and the increase in prices.

Uniforms, there is a decrease of approximately 50 percent, or \$3,000, and that's due to the history and fewer costs and fewer supplies that are needed for the uniforms.

For 0415, special activities, these are the awards for the various programs. And there is an increase there

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of approximately \$3,000, or 20 percent, and that's because most of those programs and awards have gotten back to pre-Covid levels, which is a great thing.

The electricity, Line 0416, is showing a decline, and that's due to the savings with the Johnson Control Program.

Line 0418, telephone, is also showing a decrease, and that has to do with the changes that we've made to our system and providers.

Line 0419, the water, is showing an 11 percent increase, and that is reflecting the projected costs with the water increases.

Line 0427, referees and instructors, there was a 2 and a half percent increase here. And once again, that has to do with the increase in the programs and activities and the increased need for instructors and referees.

Line 0435, contractual expense, there is a decrease here of approximately 25 percent, or \$10,000, and that also is due to changes and modifications with the Johnson Control Program that is reflecting savings in this line.

Line 0455, repairs to equipment, there is a slight decrease there of about \$1,000, or 25 percent for that line. Thankfully that is just trending lower, equipment is working well and not needed there.

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Line 0480, conference and association, there is a decrease there of about 40 percent, or \$350, and that is just a cost of some of the programs for training and certifications.

The total budget was a 9 percent decrease, \$697,000 proposed for the coming year.

Then in the youth program section, Line 0100, the personnel costs, there is a decrease there. That line is going to be used exclusively to track certain employees with the youth program and the personnel expenses for that.

And then Line 0102, the overtime line, is also showing a decrease, and once again because of the reclassification of the employees.

So the youth program budget proposed is \$123,257. And that covers the recreation.

So when you are done in the park, you can head over to the pool for a nice swim and cool off, all of that.

For the pool. So after all those sports and activities head over for a nice swim. Our pool is truly a family fun center for our residents. It offers a variety of activities for adults and children, including water aerobics and Zumba, cardio, yoga, pilates, junior lifeguard, My Tot and Me program, gardening and much, much more.

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They also offer full swim lesson programs, most basic of three years old up to advanced swimming, diving and proficiency skills.

We also have our competitive Floral Park Pirates

Swim Team which practices each day and competes against

other local teams in the area.

In addition, our pool offers all kinds of family and social events, including teen Luau, movie nights, residents' days, grandparents' days, ice cream social nights, rollback nights and more.

All of this cannot run without a great dedicated staff, including Pool Director Tom Dillon, Assistant Pool Director Joe Derby and all the lifeguards, maintenance and office staff that keep our pool and programs running each day.

The current operating budget for this is \$1,217,000. The majority of this is funded through membership fees, guest fees, program fees and swim lesson fees.

The proposed changes to the coming year. The pool subscription line, which is the main source of revenue, is not expected to show any major increase, it's been kept at the level of this year \$720,000.

As the Mayor mentioned before, we are seeing an increase in our interest income thanks to an increase in

the rates. So we have a proposed Line 2401, \$3,000 in interest income on the item, which is a 900 percent increase of what we were seeing in the past.

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Line 2451 shows a decline of 29 percent, and this is the monies collected from D&J Concessions based on the projected revenue for the year for that.

Line 2664, swimming lessons, show an increase of 100 percent. These are the fees collected for various swim lessons, things that I mentioned previously, most of the fees -- it's \$20 for a private lesson, which is \$15 to the lifeguard who instructs, and \$5 goes to the Village for that.

Line 5031 is the amounts -- this is the amount transferred from the general fund to the pool to pay any potential shortfall, and that is showing about a 10 percent increase.

Line 0100, personal services, this is showing 6.14 percent increase, approximately \$24,000, this covers the salaries for the director, full-time and part-time assistants, and approximately 66 seasonal employees, lifeguards, maintenance attendants and year round maintenance.

The personal service overtime associated with that increase, which also includes in addition to those increases, special events and extended days for the higher

nights where we stay open an extra hour or two, that's going to be \$15,000 to \$20,000, or 33 percent increase.

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Line 0403, paint and supplies, this is everything from touchup to repairs to the building, the pool, the grounds, that is actually showing a decrease of 50 percent, or \$1,000.

Line 0406, for supplies, this is first aid, janitorial supplies, chairs, mats and basic supplies, that's been trended down a little bit, the budget for that dropped to \$12,000, or 20 percent decrease on that.

The pool filtration supply, Line 0409, this has been mentioned in other budget areas, costs are rising, supplies are rising, so this line is showing a 30 percent increase, or increase from \$23,000 to \$30,000.

Electric and gas, Line 0416, once again due to savings from the Johnson Control Program, 8 percent decrease in that line.

Line 0418, the telephone, is showing an increase of \$1,000 to \$2,000, and that's based on usage and activity at the pool which has gone up.

The water, 0419, has a 16.5 percent increase, and that is based on the prior year as well as projected increased water rates.

Line 0435, contractual expenses, right now we are budgeting a \$10,000, or 20 percent decrease. This covers

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everything from the Ansul system, the HVAC, to sprinklers, exterminating, cameras and various other contract services that we have.

Line 0450, repairs to building, slight decrease from \$7,000 to \$5,000. Once again thanks to improvements from the Johnson Control Program we are expecting a decrease in that area.

Line 0471, which is the postage, also has a decrease from \$700 to about \$350, which is a 50 percent decrease. And that is because we have switched from paper mailing, we do a lot more e-mailing now, which is saving on the cost of postage.

Line 0485, special activities, is a slight increase of 17 percent, this is the swim team, special events, family nights, day camp supplies, crafts. Once again we are getting back to pre-Covid levels and above, a lot more activity, a lot more people participating, which is a great thing.

9030 is showing a slight increase, and that's the employer shared FICA related to the increase in salaries up above.

And then Line 9940, the transfer is showing a half a percent increase from the general fund to the pool fund, both of that general fund covers the pool reconstruction bond that we are still paying off.

So the bottom line for the state of our budget, no surplus or deficit for the pool. That covers the pool.

MAYOR FITZGERALD: Thank you, Trustee Longobardi.

Now I'll turn it back to Trustee Stewart to talk about Four Village Studio.

TRUSTEE STEWART: Thank you.

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Four Village Studio is a 24/7 cable channel funded by the cable franchises. Four Village Studio encompasses Floral Park, Bellerose, South Floral Park and Stewart Manor.

Under the leadership of James Green it provides a variety of educational and informational programming of interest to viewers of all ages. There is also a community bulletin board that runs whenever there is no programming. This is a great place to get information.

At this time Four Village Studio is working towards full high definition capabilities. James Green is working in conjunction with Cablevision in order to make that happen.

The majority of Mr. Green -- with Four Village Studio's budget has to do with the contractual agreement where there is a variance of a little over 1 percent.

The studio equipment needs. There is a decrease of 5.17 percent. There isn't a need for as much new equipment at the moment as there has been in the past.

April 10, 2024 - Tentative 2024/2025 Budget Presentation 1 There is training for his staff volunteers in filming, 2 editing and production, which is budgeted for \$5,500. 3 MAYOR FITZGERALD: Thank you. 4 TRUSTEE STEWART: Thank you. 5 MAYOR FITZGERALD: I will turn it over to Trustee 6 Chiara, talk about the Fire Department. 7 TRUSTEE CHIARA: Sure. Thank you, Mr. Mayor. 8 Good evening, everybody. 9 Our Fire Department is currently totally staffed 10 with 158 dedicated volunteers. These volunteers are well 11 trained and prepared to respond at all times of day and 12 night for a variety of alarms. Through the course of the 1.3 year these alarms range from significant building fires to 14 automatic alarms with no fires. Along with the fire calls,

The Fire Department volunteered registered approximately 2,500 hours dedicated to training classes and reality based drills preparing them for emergency situations.

our department, NYU Langone and Nassau County also answer

EMS calls for 80 cases.

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Our Village is very fortunate to have such dedicated volunteers who contribute an enormous amount of time to help out their neighbors.

This year the Fire Department budget increased 4.06 percent. The notable changes are as follows, on Line

1 0207 it shows an increase of \$1,000, this is for the rising 2 increase of the cost to purchase Fire Department gear. 3 On Line 0208, reflects an increase of nearly 4 \$7,000 for new member gears with the rotation of eight to 5 ten sets of these gears per year. On Line 0407, shows a reduction of \$5,000, the 6 7 cost to purchase medical supplies due to NYU Langone responding to ambulance calls. 8 9 On Line 0418, reflects an increase of \$11,000 to 10 supply additional internet service for the new fire service 11 reporting program. On Line 0460, indicates a \$5,000 increase for the 12 1.3 inspection and repairs of the Fire Department fleet. 14 This year's Fire Department budget has increased 15 by, like I said, 4.06 percent, or \$19,000. 16 Once again, thank you to our volunteers for your 17 service. 18 MAYOR FITZGERALD: Thank you, Trustee Chiara. 19 Go back to Trustee Longobardi for the Building 20 Department. 21 TRUSTEE LONGOBARDI: Thank you, again, Mr. Mayor. 22 For the Building Department, the Building 23 Department overseas the last acts of construction and 24 capital improvements on businesses and residential

properties, as well as the Village properties.

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include permits, contractor licenses, title searches, zoning cases and Architectural Review Board.

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All this work is conducted under the leadership of Superintendent Renee Marcus and her dedicated staff which consists of three full-time and part-time employees. Some of the activity in the past year includes 529 permits, 587 contractor licenses, 142 title searches, 11 zoning cases, 91 Architectural Review cases, 11,666 phone calls, that's an average of approximately 45 a day, 2,682 counter visits and walk-ins.

Our Building Department is nearing completion of a -- near completion of a Village wide energy performance project. The project included updating existing Village buildings to conserve energy and save on utility costs.

These projects include interior, exterior and sports field LED lighting and upgrades, HVAC equipment and control replacement, pipe installation, new library roof, weatherization of all doors and windows and solar panels.

They are also working on implementing a new on-line permit system which may be available this year.

The current budget operates at \$453,618. The requested budget changes for the coming year are in Line 0100, personal service, which is that staff I just mentioned, 2.9 percent increase, or approximately \$11,000.

And also for conference expense on Line 0480,

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these are the fees for New York State required Continuing Education credits for our code enforcement officials, membership dues and various licensing fees; and the request there is \$1,000 for that line for the year.

Everything else, including stationery supplies, professional services, equipment are all staying unchanged for that department.

The total projected budget is \$464,671 for next year.

MAYOR FITZGERALD: Thank you, Trustee Longobardi.

And last, but certainly not least, I don't think

we could call ourselves a full service Village if we didn't

have our own library, and I'll turn it over to Trustee

Chiara to talk about the library.

TRUSTEE CHIARA: Thank you.

Our library, voted the Best Library in Nassau

County for the last three years in a row, continues to be a warm, vibrant community gathering place for all of our residents. Not only does our library offer the typical resources usually offered at a library, but this year our library built nearly 500 programs for their patrons. These programs range from valuable resource information sessions to family trivia nights. Over 100,000 items were checked out of the library this year and the library issued over 700 passes to local museums.

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Pat Eren, library director, was recognized as
Women of Distinction this year by our local politician, and
along with her staff continue to come up with creative
ideas to meet and engage our community.

The Village is very fortunate it has such a wonderful library. Thank you to Pat, her staff, the library board and Friends of the Library for all you do to keep the library such a great place to visit.

This year's library budget increased by 0.58 percent. The notable changes are on Line 0203 -- excuse me, 0203, yes, has an increase of \$500 based on reduction of uses of AV materials, including CDs, DVDs and audio books.

On Line 0204, also shows a reduction of 500 bucks for the reduction of the use of software CD roms.

Line 0416, reflects a \$5,000 decrease due to the savings on gas and electricity because of the Johnson Control renovation and improvements to the building.

Line 0418 shows an increase of \$3,300 for the needed upgrade of internet service to support the new WiFi and new telephone system and along with usage.

Line 0432 has an increase of \$10,000 for the expansion of programs to better serve the broader needs of the community.

Line 0444 reflects a \$500 decrease for periodical

subscriptions.

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Line 9010 shows an increase of \$10,000 to cover the employee costs for the New York State pension increase.

With these and other slight changes the library budget has increased 0.58 percent, or close to \$9,000.

Thank you.

MAYOR FITZGERALD: Thank you, Trustee Chiara.

And before I open it up for public comments, just some final closing thoughts. The Village Administrator Bambrick went over how the tax calculation works and how each of us as residents pay that piece on the assessed value of our homes. But the commercial buildings do pay a large portion of the tax -- are a large portion of the tax base, and I would just like to say thank you all the businesses that do choose to open up and stay in Floral Park.

And as Deputy Mayor Pombonyo says I think at every meeting, please make sure to continue to dine and shop locally, not only does it provide you the services that you need and want, it also helps keep our tax base where it needs to be and our taxes lower.

Also I think one of the things that over the years in doing this that I've enjoyed or been proud of the attention to detail that goes through this during the last three or four months.

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Trustee Stewart mentioned something about the sump, and the camera at the sump, I think it was a change of \$750, but it just shows the work that's done by the department heads and everyone involved in producing this budget that they just don't skip over things, they look at over everything to make sure we present or just presented not only a responsible budget but a very diligent budget.

And in closing I would like to thank once again Village Administrator Bambrick, Deputy Treasurer Arnone, all the department heads involved in this, but also all the employees of the Village that throughout the year make sure that they stay within the budget, that the taxpayers -- or the Board is approved and the taxpayers are financing to provide the services that Floral Park has come to enjoy for the last 115 years, and I've certainly enjoyed it the last 25 years living here, no better place.

And with that, hope you enjoyed the last hour and 15 minutes.

And if there's anyone who has any questions or comments specific to the budget, please approach the podium. Is there anyone here in Village Hall?

(Whereupon, there was no response.)

MAYOR FITZGERALD: If there is anyone on Zoom if you want to raise your hand and then Darlene will unmute you?

1	Give it a couple of seconds.
2	DARLENE LANZA: No.
3	MAYOR FITZGERALD: With that I would like to ask,
4	any Board members that have any additional questions or
5	comments?
6	(Whereupon, there was no response.)
7	MAYOR FITZGERALD: Thank you. Thanks for your
8	work.
9	I would like to ask for a motion to reserve
10	decision and close the public hearing.
11	TRUSTEE POMBONYO: So moved.
12	TRUSTEE LONGOBARDI: Second.
13	MAYOR FITZGERALD: I would ask Village
14	Administrator Bambrick to poll the Board.
15	GERARD BAMBRICK: Trustee Pombonyo?
16	TRUSTEE POMBONYO: Aye.
17	GERARD BAMBRICK: Trustee Chiara?
18	TRUSTEE CHIARA: Aye.
19	GERARD BAMBRICK: Trustee Stewart?
20	TRUSTEE STEWART: Aye.
21	GERARD BAMBRICK: Trustee Longobardi?
22	TRUSTEE LONGOBARDI: Aye.
23	GERARD BAMBRICK: Mayor Fitzgerald?
24	MAYOR FITZGERALD: Aye.
25	Thank you, everyone, for coming out and

1	participating and listening. I always hope people learn a
2	lot about how the Village operates during this meeting, so
3	thank you.
4	(Whereupon, the Public Hearing was concluded and
5	stood adjourned.)
6	***************
7	CERTIFIED TO BE A TRUE AND ACCURATE TRANSCRIPT OF THE ORIGINAL
8	STENOGRAPHIC MINUTES TAKEN OF THIS PROCEEDING.
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10	MARY KATE WALDRON
11	COURT REPORTER
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