

1 THE BRICK TOWNSHIP MUNICIPAL  
 2 UTILITIES AUTHORITY  
 3  
 4  
 5 -----X  
 6 IN RE: : TRANSCRIPT  
 7 ANNUAL RATE HEARING : OF  
 8 : : PROCEEDINGS  
 9 -----X  
 10  
 11  
 12  
 13 Brick Township Municipal Utilities Authority  
 14 Brick, New Jersey  
 15 Monday, March 22, 2010  
 16 6:00 P.M.  
 17  
 18  
 19  
 20  
 21  
 22 -----  
 23 MELISSA J. LUMI, C.S.R.  
 24 Certified Court Reporter  
 25 2260 Church Road  
 Toms River, New Jersey 08753  
 (732) 255-8476  
 Melissa J. Lumi, C.S.R.

3  
 1 CHAIRMAN BOTTAZZI: This meeting  
 2 is being conducted pursuant to the Open  
 3 Public Meetings Act being Chapter 231 of  
 4 the Laws of 1975. In accordance with the  
 5 requirements of this law, a public notice  
 6 was published in the Asbury Park Press on  
 7 February 21, 2009, and in the Brick  
 8 Township Communicator on March 4, 2009.  
 9 Notice was also given to the  
 10 Clerks of Brick Township, Point Pleasant  
 11 Borough and Point Pleasant Beach, Howell  
 12 Township, Dover Township, Lakewood Township  
 13 and Wall Township, and Mantoloking Borough  
 14 in accordance with the statute. Notice  
 15 was placed on the bulletin board maintained  
 16 for this purpose by the Authority. The  
 17 purpose of the meeting is to present the  
 18 proposed rate schedule amendment.  
 19 Marie, would you please do roll  
 20 call?  
 21 MS. SYLVESTER: Certainly.  
 22 Commissioner Buttacavoli?  
 23 COMM. BUTTACAVOLI: Here.  
 24 MS. SYLVESTER: Commissioner  
 25 Cartine is absent. Commissioner Veni?  
 Melissa J. Lumi, C.S.R.

2  
 1 BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS:  
 2  
 3 PATRICK L. BOTTAZZI - Chairman  
 4 JOSEPH M. VENI, PE - Vice Chairman  
 5 JOSEPH P. BUTTACAVOLI, DMD - Secretary  
 6 EDWARD J. McBRIDE - Alternate  
 7 JOHN M. CIOCCO - Alternate  
 8  
 9 CONSULTANTS:  
 10  
 11 JERRY DASTI, ESQ. - Attorney  
 12 JOHN TRUHAN - Consulting Engineer  
 13 FRANK HOLMAN - Consulting Accountant  
 14  
 15 STAFF:  
 16 JAMES LACEY, CPWM - Executive Director  
 17 STEVE SPECHT - Director of Engineering and  
 18 Operations  
 19 FRANK PLANKO - Chief Financial Officer  
 20 MARIE SYLVESTER - Executive Supervisor  
 21 FRANK PANNUCCI, JR. - Director of Customer  
 22 Accounts  
 23 SCOTT BUNDY - Director of Field Operations  
 24 JOE MAGGIO - Director of Water Quality  
 25  
 Melissa J. Lumi, C.S.R.

4  
 1 COMM. VENI: Here.  
 2 MS. SYLVESTER: Commissioner  
 3 Iannarone is absent. Commissioner Ciocco?  
 4 COMM. CIOCCO: Here.  
 5 MS. SYLVESTER: Commissioner  
 6 McBride?  
 7 COMM. McBRIDE: Here.  
 8 MS. SYLVESTER: Chairman Bottazzi?  
 9 CHAIRMAN BOTTAZZI: Here. I'd  
 10 like to make a correction that I stated  
 11 February 21, 2009, is what --  
 12 CHAIRMAN BUTTACAVOLI:  
 13 February 10, 2010, and the Brick  
 14 Communicator February 24, 2010.  
 15 CHAIRMAN BOTTAZZI: At this point  
 16 I'll turn the meeting over to the attorney,  
 17 Mr. Dasti.  
 18 MR. DASTI: Thank you, Mr.  
 19 Chairman. This rate hearing is scheduled  
 20 this evening in accordance with the  
 21 community requirements set forth in NJSA  
 22 40:15 -- 40:14B-22 and B-23. The notice  
 23 of this rate hearing was published at least  
 24 20 days ago in the Asbury Park Press and in  
 25 The Messenger.  
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1 Mr. Chairman, before we have the  
2 sworn testimony from Mr. Planko and Mr.  
3 Holman, I'd like to have the record  
indicate documents which I'm going to have  
entered into evidence.

6 First is A-1, which is the Annual  
7 Rate Hearing Public Notice Hearing. A-2 is  
8 the legal -- the Ad Placement Request both  
9 to the Brick Township Communicator and the  
10 Asbury Park Press. A-3 is the Tear Sheet  
11 showing the advertisement in the  
12 Communicator. A-4 is the Affidavit of  
13 Publication from the Asbury Park Press.  
14 A-5 is the Certified Receipt verifying that  
15 notice was mailed to the Brick Township  
16 Clerk. A-6 is the Certified Receipt to  
17 the Howell Township Clerk. A-7 is the  
18 Certified Receipt from Lakewood Township  
19 Clerk. A-8 is the Certified Receipt from  
20 Mantoloking Borough Clerk. A-9 is the  
21 Certified Receipt from Point Pleasant Beach  
22 Clerk. A-10 is the Certified Receipt from  
23 the Point Pleasant Borough Clerk. A-11 is  
24 the Certified Receipt to the Toms River  
25 Township Clerk. A-12 is the Certified

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1 Receipt from the Wall Township clerk.  
2 A-13 is the Certified Receipt from the  
3 Brick Township Board of Fire Commissioners.  
4 A-14 is a Letter and Certified Receipt to  
5 Mayor Vincent Barrella of Point Pleasant  
6 Beach Borough notifying him of the bulk  
7 water -- notifying the Beach Borough of the  
8 bulk water rate increase effective 4/12/10.  
9 A-15 is a Letter and Certified Receipt to  
10 Mayor Martin Konkus of Point Pleasant  
11 Borough again, the notification of the bulk  
12 water rate increase effective April 1,  
13 2010. A-16 is a letter from Frank Holman,  
14 CPA, of Holman and Frenia, the Authority's  
15 editors setting forth the initial service  
16 charge calculations effective 4/1/2010, and  
17 in order to save time, Mr. Chairman, we'll  
18 have those marked by the stenographer at  
19 the conclusion of the hearing.

20 If you have no objections, sir,  
I'll swear in Mr. Planko and Mr. Holman,  
because I believe they'll be testifying.

23 **FRANK PLANKO, CFO,**  
24 **and**

**Melissa J. Lumi, C.S.R.**

1 **FRANK HOLMAN, CPA,**  
2 **having been duly sworn,**  
3 **according to law, upon his**  
4 **oath, testifies as follows:**

5  
6 **MR. DASTI:** Mr. Chairman, with  
7 your permission, perhaps Mr. Planko can  
8 lead us through the Rate Hearing.

9 **CHAIRMAN BOTTAZZI:** At this time  
10 we'll ask Mr. Planko to do his  
11 presentation, please.

12 **MR. PLANKO:** This is the agenda of  
13 the items that I'd like to go over this  
14 evening for this rate hearing.

15 First of all, the 2010-2011 key  
16 budget points. As the Board recalls back  
17 on December the 21st, I gave a full  
18 presentation to the Board on our budget  
19 detail, and I'd just like to review some of  
20 those budgets points.

21 I'd like to talk about the budget  
22 process. There's about a three-month  
23 process until we get to the point of rate  
24 determination and rate design. I'd like  
25 to talk about the reasons for increased

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1 rates in the utility industries,  
2 particularly the ones that impacted this  
3 Authority in fiscal 2010-2011. I'm going  
4 to put up the 2010 rate comparison chart.  
5 We put that up every year and it shows how  
6 this Authority stands at the 10,000-gallon  
7 water usage level and how we compare the  
8 rates to other purveyors; and finally, I  
9 want to talk about the cost impact on our  
10 customers, our typical residential  
11 single-family customer that uses  
12 15,000 gallons of water.

13 These are the key budget points  
14 that I talked about at my December budget  
15 presentation. As you will recall, we have  
16 a budget balanced at \$24.7 million. We  
17 have an overall 4.3 percent rate increase.  
18 That's going to generate for us an  
19 additional \$1.4 million in revenues  
20 allowing us to balance our budget.

21 We have 138 budgeted full-time  
22 positions. We also have seven  
23 Commissioners and seven seasonal. Taking  
24 them into account, we have the full  
25 compliment of 152 positions.

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1 We have a capital budget of  
2 \$8.4 million. I distributed the budget  
3 books to the entire Board, to the Directors  
4 and to all our professionals, and in  
5 Section 3 of that budget book, we have a  
6 line by line detail of what that capital  
7 budget encompasses.

8 The budget process is our first  
9 step in rate analysis. It's usually about  
10 the end of November when the Finance  
11 Committee hears from me and usually  
12 December that I do the budget presentation,  
13 but actually before that, there's a 3 or  
14 4-month process to get to that point, which  
15 usually starts in late August, early  
16 September.

17 Usually about early September, the  
18 first thing that I do, I distribute the  
19 worksheets for operating capital to all the  
20 department heads. When they receive these  
21 reports, it has a vast amount of  
22 information on it already, it has several  
23 years of budget history, it has several  
24 years of actual history for each and every  
25 operating line item.

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1 So when the department heads gets  
2 this information, there's very little  
3 research that they have to do to compare  
4 their budgets.

5 While the department heads are  
6 doing their operating and capital  
7 worksheets, the finance department is  
8 calculating payroll, fringes, OCUA and the  
9 debt service budgets. Out of our  
10 \$34.7 million budget, these items alone are  
11 over \$30 million of our budget. The  
12 majority of the budget is actually  
13 calculated in the finance department.  
14 Almost 95 percent of the budget is  
15 calculated to finance department and the  
16 remaining few percent is calculated by the  
17 department heads for their day-to-day  
18 operations for their ends of the business.

19 I also calculate base revenues  
20 prior to any rate increase. I take what's  
21 called here a bottoms-up approach. I look  
22 at each of our customer classes and I  
23 forecast our revenues by month. Okay?

24 When you do a revenue budget in  
25 the utility industry, there's several

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1 moving targets that you have to take into  
2 consideration. One is average use, as I  
3 mentioned here. We also have customer  
4 growth, which in our case -- for this  
5 authority is basically the only one  
6 account, and finally you have the moving  
7 target of seasonality to take into account.

8 While this is all going on,  
9 usually about early November I get all this  
10 information back and I start to put the  
11 budget jigsaw puzzle together and prepare  
12 what's called a ProForma budget, which is  
13 basically an estimate of our expenses and  
14 all our revenues prior to any rate  
15 adjustments.

16 As I do the revenue budget, I also  
17 consider other items, other items such as  
18 cell towers, lab fees, investment income  
19 and so forth, and once I prepare this  
20 ProForma estimated budget, then at that  
21 point I make a determination if there's a  
22 shortfall and if a rate adjustment is  
23 required.

24 At the end of that ProForma  
25 analysis that I get for the 2010 and 2011

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1 budget, this is what it looked like, we had  
2 estimated expenditures of \$34.7 million,  
3 with estimated income prior to any rate  
4 adjustment of \$32.8, which means we had a  
5 deficit of \$1.9 million and that's called  
6 our rate requirements. That's what we  
7 need to effectively balance the budget.

8 I take two basic sources when you  
9 have a deficit to balance your budget.  
10 Number one is to draw from your Rate  
11 Projection Maintenance Fund and the other  
12 is to adjust your rates accordingly to  
13 effectively balance the budget.

14 Here are the key reasons for rate  
15 adjustment in the utility industry in  
16 general. First that we have here,  
17 increased operating costs, payroll and  
18 other operating expenses. When you read  
19 about other utilities in the newspaper, the  
20 big boys, New Jersey Natural Gas,  
21 Elizabethtown, Public Service Electric and  
22 Gas, this is one of the primary reasons  
23 that they file for a base rate increase,  
24 their increase in their operating costs.

25 As I talked about at our budget

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1 presentation back in December, this was a  
2 key reason of why in 2010-2011 we, in fact,  
3 do have a rate increase, because of  
4 payroll, benefits and retiree costs  
5 increased by over \$800,000 for fiscal 2010  
6 and 2011.

7 The second reason is growing debt  
8 service. Back in the early 2000s, this  
9 was a key factor for the Authority here,  
10 because I had to build in the additional  
11 debt service for our series 2002 bonding, I  
12 had to build into debt service for NJEIT  
13 2001 and 2002, then in the mid-2000s, it  
14 leveled off. As for as 2010-2011 is  
15 concerned, we have a slight increase in  
16 debt service for that year of a little bit  
17 over \$100,000 and that has to do with the  
18 issue that we talked about at our special  
19 meeting a couple of weeks ago on March 4th,  
20 our NJEIT 2010 bonding issue for the  
21 \$2.1 million. Because of that, our debt  
22 service will grow just a little bit over  
23 \$100,000 for fiscal 2010 and 2011.

24 Third reason for a rate adjustment  
25 is consideration for future capital needs.

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1 Usually they're the recurring, renewal and  
2 replacement type of capital that you like  
3 to build into your rates, if you have the  
4 opportunity to do so. We don't have that  
5 consideration from 2010 and 2011, but it's  
6 something we'd like to consider for the  
7 future.

8 And finally, the other reason is  
9 reduction in revenue sources. Again,  
10 referring back to my presentation on  
11 December the 21st, I indicated to the Board  
12 that we had a decrease in investment income  
13 of over half a million dollars, in  
14 investment income for 2010-2011; number  
15 one, because of decrease in cash balances,  
16 and number two because of lower returns on  
17 those investments.

18 So it's really items number one  
19 for over \$800,000 and a decrease in revenue  
20 sources over half a million dollars why  
21 we're adjusting our rates for fiscal 2010  
22 and 2011. This is the particular chart --

23 CHAIRMAN BOTTAZZI: Excuse me.  
24 Could you back up on that, please?

25 MR. PLANKO: Sure.

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1 CHAIRMAN BOTTAZZI: In the  
2 operating expenses, I know payroll and  
3 other operating expenses. What are the  
4 major operating expenses of -- health  
5 insurance?

6 MR. PLANKO: It was about \$300,000  
7 in base wages based on our contracts, with  
8 about \$350,000 I believe in increased  
9 benefits, and we had about a \$70,000  
10 increase in retiree benefits. Those were  
11 the key pieces in that particular line  
12 item.

13 CHAIRMAN BOTTAZZI: Okay. Thank  
14 you.

15 MR. PLANKO: This is a chart we  
16 show each year. It shows our water rate  
17 comparison. This chart is shown at the  
18 10,000 gallons usage level and what each  
19 purveyor charges at this point in time.

20 As you can see, we're the green  
21 bar right in the middle, and I believe  
22 Marie gave this chart to all of the  
23 Commissioners if I'm not mistaken, and you  
24 can see we're going up to \$54.46, but  
25 again, even with the rate increase, we're

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1 still one of the lowest as shown in this  
2 chart.

3 You can see all of the private  
4 companies are way off to the right, public  
5 companies are here, and we're at the lowest  
6 spectrum of the public companies.

7 And finally, this is just some  
8 thoughts on cost impacts to customers that  
9 I put together. First of all, our typical  
10 residential single-family customer using  
11 15,000 gallons of water will increase from  
12 \$181.81 for both water and sewer to less  
13 than an \$8 modest increase of \$189.60 as of  
14 April the 1st.

15 Bulk rate is finalized in April of  
16 2010 according to Resolution. Right now I  
17 estimate that increase from \$3.81 for a  
18 1,000 gallons to an estimated \$3.99 per  
19 thousand gallons. Everybody --

20 CHAIRMAN BOTTAZZI: And that will  
21 bring it from \$181 to \$189 with an increase  
22 of 18 cents?

23 MR. PLANKO: \$3.81 to \$3.99, Mr.  
24 Chairman. \$3.81 to \$3.99 per thousand  
25 gallons.

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1 CHAIRMAN BOTTAZZI: Okay. And  
2 that's an increase of \$0.18?

3 MR. PLANKO: Yes.

CHAIRMAN BOTTAZZI: Okay.

MR. PLANKO: Bulk sales. We're  
6 all familiar with bulk sales and the  
7 important role that bulk sales play in  
8 stabilizing rates for the Authority.

9 In 2010-2011, we'll have an  
10 estimated revenues of \$1.2 million for our  
11 two bulk customers, which is Point Pleasant  
12 Beach and Point Pleasant Borough. I  
13 always like to give an approximation what  
14 our rates would be if we didn't have those  
15 critical sales to our bulk customers, and  
16 if we didn't have those bulk sales of  
17 \$1.2 million, our water rates would go up  
18 14 percent in the fiscal year, and the  
19 overall rates, instead of going to  
20 4.3 percent would go up 8.5 percent. So  
21 the bulk sales play a critical role in  
22 stabilizing rates for the Authority.

23 And finally, we have a Cost of  
24 Service Study in progress with our auditor,  
25 Frank Holman, who we're reviewing customer

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1 charges and commodity costs for all our  
2 customer classes. There is the potential  
3 we might have some adjustments in either  
4 the customer charge or the commodity cost  
5 for various classes in the near future.

6 But in closing, again, we do have  
7 a balanced budget of \$34.7 million. We  
8 have Resolution Number 30-10 before the  
9 Board this evening, which details out the  
10 rates and the proper adjustments that we  
11 need to balance our budget effectively and  
12 we're recommending that the Board adopt  
13 this Resolution 30-10 this evening.

14 I turn it back over to you, Mr.  
15 Chairman.

16 CHAIRMAN BOTTAZZI: Thank you.  
17 Mr. Holman, can you bring on any high  
18 points that we can look at and want to  
19 explain a little deeper?

20 MR. HOLMAN: Yes, Mr. Chairman. I  
21 just want to add to Frank's thorough  
22 presentation that in addition to interest  
23 income being down, we know the usage is  
24 down last year, it was a very wet year, and  
25 it really affected our revenues also, and

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1 then connection fees for a couple of years  
2 now have not been what they were years  
3 back.

4 So with all those factors going  
5 against you, even when you hold your  
6 operating costs to a reasonable level, it's  
7 hard not to increase rates and we're kind  
8 of seeing that all over the county.

9 I just want to add, Mr. Dasti  
10 mentioned and our letter was submitted as  
11 evidence, when we computed the connection  
12 fees for the next fiscal year, and we  
13 recommend the maximum allowable amount that  
14 you can charge, which would be for sewer,  
15 \$3,355, and for water, \$3,344, and our  
16 letter details that computation, which is  
17 made consistently with the statute, the  
18 state statute that permits you to charge  
19 that amount, but we recommend that you  
20 charge the maximum amount, that does aid  
21 your rate payers that are here now, and the  
22 formula we used by statute really provides  
23 for the equity in the system that all your  
24 other customers have paid in over the  
25 years, that the next new customers will be

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1 paying in their share of that.

2 So we recommend that you do that  
3 also, and our letter has that detailed  
4 computation.

5 That's all I have, unless there  
6 are any questions.

7 CHAIRMAN BOTTAZZI: Anyone have  
8 any questions for the CFO or Mr. Holman?

9 COMM. VENI: No.

10 CHAIRMAN BOTTAZZI: Okay. Thank  
11 you. A very good -- good, good  
12 presentation. Anyone have any questions  
13 at all?

14 I'm sorry, but I do. How much  
15 did you set aside for summer labor? Can  
16 you tell me?

17 MR. PLANKO: We have seven  
18 positions at \$9 an hour for approximately  
19 ten weeks, Mr. Chairman.

20 CHAIRMAN BOTTAZZI: Are they doing  
21 40 hours or 30 hours?

22 MR. PLANKO: Forty hours at \$9 per  
23 hour, there's seven positions, times -- I  
24 believe we have them in for ten weeks.

25 MR. DASTI: It's \$24,000.

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1 CHAIRMAN BOTTAZZI: Have we set  
2 out any feelings yet about the summer  
3 labor?

4 I'm just trying to figure out how  
5 much money could we recoup if we didn't  
6 have any summer labor this year. I know  
7 they're helpful and we have people in the  
8 summer that do go out on vacation and  
9 then --

10 MR. PLANKO: If we don't hire  
11 them, Mr. Chairman, it would affect the  
12 budgeted savings. Absolutely.

13 CHAIRMAN BOTTAZZI: Okay. Would  
14 you get that number to us?

15 MR. PLANKO: Sure. Absolutely.

16 CHAIRMAN BOTTAZZI: Sometime in  
17 the very near future. Thank you very  
18 much.

19 MR. PLANKO: Thank you.

20 CHAIRMAN BOTTAZZI: Counselor,  
21 what do you want to do next?

22 MR. DASTI: Mr. Chairman, unless  
23 there's any questions of either Mr. Holman  
24 or Mr. Planko from the Commissioners, it's  
25 time to open it up to the public for any

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1 public comment.

2 CHAIRMAN BOTTAZZI: Okay. At  
3 this point in time I'll open up the meeting  
4 to the public. If there's anyone that  
5 would like to speak about our budget and  
6 our rate increase, we have the people here  
7 to answer it.

8 MR. BRIGGS: Melanie Briggs. I'd  
9 like to know what percent the employees'  
10 salaries increase was.

11 CHAIRMAN BOTTAZZI: What  
12 percentage of the employees' salary -- I  
13 think we can come up with that. An  
14 increase?

15 Well, we have a fixed contract  
16 that's been set aside where all of the  
17 municipalities in the area have a 3.5, the  
18 personnel we talk to, our directors and so  
19 forth and they -- from a 3.9, they sat and  
20 agreed to go down to a 2.5 percent. So  
21 we're picking up 14 percent savings from  
22 what we had built in the contract for the  
23 last -- as long as I've been here,  
24 17 years.

25 MR. BRIGGS: All employees went

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1 down to 2.5 percent increase?

2 CHAIRMAN BOTTAZZI: Did everybody  
3 pretty much go down?

4 MR. PLANKO: Yes. Our total  
5 salary increase is \$307,000 on an  
6 8.3 percent base. If somebody has a  
7 calculator, 300,000 divided by  
8 \$8.4 million.

9 CHAIRMAN BOTTAZZI: We can get the  
10 exact number for you if you -- let's see.

11 He has a calculator.

12 MR. HOLMAN: 300,000 divided by  
13 how much, Frank?

14 MR. PLANKO: \$8.3 million.

15 MR. HOLMAN: 300,000 divided by  
16 how much, Frank?

17 MR. PLANKO: \$8.3 million.

18 MR. HOLMAN: 3.6 percent.

19 MR. DASTI: What is it?

20 MR. HOLMAN: 3.6 percent? That  
21 sounds higher than what we were talking  
22 about.

23 MR. PLANKO: Yeah, but that's  
24 because it's 2.5 percent, or a flattened  
25 level, I think it's \$2,000. So there's a

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1 lot of lower level people with salaries  
2 that are getting \$2,000, so the effective  
3 rate is higher than 2.5 percent. So when  
4 you take the two into combination, that's  
5 what the calculation comes into. It's  
6 2.5 percent.

7 CHAIRMAN BOTTAZZI: Somebody give  
8 Mrs. Briggs the answer, please. I'm not  
9 going to try it.

10 MR. HOLMAN: The budgeted amount  
11 is 3.6 percent higher than last year's  
12 budget? That's \$300,000 increase on an  
13 \$8.3 million budget.

14 CHAIRMAN BOTTAZZI: \$300,000  
15 increase in the salaries from last year.

16 MS. BRIGGS: And --

17 CHAIRMAN BOTTAZZI: And it could  
18 have been \$450,000.

19 MR. BRIGGS: And it could have  
20 been \$150,000.

21 CHAIRMAN BOTTAZZI: Well, they  
22 didn't voluntarily go -- you know what?  
23 They just said, hey, my fuel bill, my  
24 mortgage rate, my gas in the car and my  
25 taxes didn't go up, don't give me a raise,

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1 but you know all those things did go up.  
 2 Their cost of living went up.  
 3 MR. BRIGGS: Right, but many,  
 4 many, many employers today are saying, we  
 5 just don't have it. Because your income is  
 6 dependent on the common worker paying their  
 7 bills.

8 CHAIRMAN BOTTAZZI: Uh-huh.

9 MR. BRIGGS: What's the  
 10 unemployment rate in Brick Township or any  
 11 of the towns that are now purchasing water?  
 12 Because if I live in Point Pleasant and I'm  
 13 buying bulk water and paying it -- and I'm  
 14 out of work, we're going to be using a lot  
 15 less water.

16 CHAIRMAN BOTTAZZI: Point  
 17 Pleasant, if you live in Point Pleasant  
 18 you'll be paying a lot more for your water.

19 MR. BRIGGS: I understand that,  
 20 but in an overall picture, if your income  
 21 is less, you're watching every drop. So  
 22 it's going to be a lower bill than it was.

23 My other question, how many people  
 24 are participating in that \$5,000 if I don't  
 25 have double insurance?

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1 CHAIRMAN BOTTAZZI: Oh, good  
 2 question. I've been wanting to ask that  
 3 myself.

4 How many people have taken the  
 5 option of receiving the \$5,000 -- to  
 6 forfeit the insurance because their spouse  
 7 has it?

8 MR. PLANKO: I believe we have  
 9 about five people. We're saving --

10 CHAIRMAN BOTTAZZI: That's all?

11 MR. PLANKO: That's all. We're  
 12 saving about \$75,000 per year because of  
 13 them.

14 CHAIRMAN BOTTAZZI: Okay. And I  
 15 understand, someone brought up that the  
 16 governor is saying that employees must take  
 17 their insurance and you can't give them the  
 18 buy back. Did anybody else hear that?

19 MR. DASTI: No, I haven't heard  
 20 that.

21 CHAIRMAN BOTTAZZI: Who told me  
 22 that?

23 COMM. VENI: It wasn't me.

24 MR. PLANKO: That wouldn't be cost  
 25 effective. That would be cost

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1 ineffective.

2 MR. BRIGGS: That would be insane.

3 MR. PLANKO: That would raise our  
 4 costs for benefits, forcing them to take  
 5 it.

6 MR. DASTI: Anything else from the  
 7 public, Mr. Chairman?

8 CHAIRMAN BOTTAZZI: Okay. You may  
 9 not like the answer, but I think we gave  
 10 you one.

11 Yes, sir? Do you have anything  
 12 here?

13 MR. FINELLI: Vic Finelli. I just  
 14 wanted to make a statement. I'm here to  
 15 listen and learn. My first time here.

16 CHAIRMAN BOTTAZZI: Good.  
 17 Welcome.

18 MR. FINELLI: The bar chart that  
 19 was all water companies?

20 CHAIRMAN BOTTAZZI: Yes. We can  
 21 get a copy for you, if you'd like.

22 MR. FINELLI: No, that's all  
 23 right. I liked where the green is.

24 CHAIRMAN BOTTAZZI: Take it.

25 MR. FINELLI: I wish I could get a

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1 presentation like this from the School  
 2 Board.

3 The statement I wanted to make  
 4 was, and I think adding onto hers, is the  
 5 rate increases themselves are not large,  
 6 but when you look at everything else that's  
 7 going on in Brick right now, Ocean County  
 8 just raised their taxes, I'm sure the  
 9 township is going to raise their taxes, I'm  
 10 sure that the school district is going to  
 11 maybe hold it at four percent, but I'm not  
 12 sure. This is a year that people didn't  
 13 get any increase in Social Security, the  
 14 price of gas is going up, can't even buy  
 15 oranges and tomatoes anymore.

16 So I mean, any little increase is  
 17 adding on to every other increase that is  
 18 going on, and people with fixed incomes,  
 19 it's just eating away everywhere you look.

20 CHAIRMAN BOTTAZZI: What we need  
 21 to do, sir, we're working very hard at it,  
 22 is increase our bulk sales to our  
 23 neighboring towns. If we get that, pick  
 24 up another million, \$200,000, we have an  
 25 even budget without an increase. It didn't

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1 happen. We have some towns that are ready  
 2 to go with us and we look very much forward  
 3 to seeing them signing up, that we can sell  
 4 them a few million gallons a day or so  
 5 forth of water, but you must understand, we  
 6 have not rehired -- when someone would  
 7 leave or retire, we didn't fill their  
 8 shoes, we just keep cutting down on that  
 9 and having people do dual jobs.

10 We are also -- our directors and  
 11 so forth voluntarily said, listen, we have  
 12 a credit for 3.9, we're very happy to go  
 13 with the circumstances and conditions of  
 14 the country and our town, we'll take the  
 15 2.5. I can't go back to them and say,  
 16 take only 1.5. You know? I mean, they  
 17 showed some spirit here and we're going to  
 18 make sure they work hard, though.

19 MR. FINELLI: This is kind of a  
 20 catch 22, because as you increase the  
 21 rates, then people are going to use less  
 22 water.

23 CHAIRMAN BOTTAZZI: We lost --  
 24 look at this. The rain last spring that we  
 25 had -- we always advertise save water, save

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1 water, but we make water, we make money on  
 2 the water we sell through our sprinkler  
 3 systems, schools, shopping centers and so  
 4 forth.

5 MR. FINELLI: Me.

6 CHAIRMAN BOTTAZZI: Yeah, and we  
 7 lost three quarters of a million dollars or  
 8 a million dollars?

9 MR. PLANKO: Almost a half a  
 10 million, just short of half a million  
 11 dollars.

12 CHAIRMAN BOTTAZZI: In income  
 13 because of the wet season we had. My place  
 14 itself, the tenants pay, they want to have  
 15 a green lawn and so forth, it costs usually  
 16 about \$3,000 to \$4,000 for water for the  
 17 whole year. It cost only \$700 last year.

18 MR. FINELLI: I'm one of those  
 19 people. I understand. I'm saying, as  
 20 you raise the prices, consumption is going  
 21 to go down.

22 CHAIRMAN BOTTAZZI: On this side,  
 23 they lost, you know, 20 something hundred  
 24 dollars just me alone because of the wet  
 25 spring we had, the rain.

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1 MR. FINELLI: The other comment I  
 2 have is every meeting I go to, school  
 3 board, whatever, that debt service thing  
 4 pops up and it seems to be increasing, you  
 5 know.

6 I don't know what you can do to  
 7 decrease the amount of money that has to go  
 8 paying off bonds, whatever it is, but  
 9 that's a killer and if it keeps increasing,  
 10 then next year I'll be here at the next  
 11 meeting hearing about the same things  
 12 again.

13 CHAIRMAN BOTTAZZI: Yeah. Well,  
 14 we hope the whole economy changes and so  
 15 forth. We have had, in the past, I think  
 16 in our last ten years, we've had five  
 17 nonincrease budgets. Right? We did not  
 18 increase in about the last ten years or  
 19 five years we did not increase the budget  
 20 at all. They were good years.

21 MR. FINELLI: And I pray for rain.

22 CHAIRMAN BOTTAZZI: And we had  
 23 good interest.

24 MR. FINELLI: My prayers seem to  
 25 be answered, yours aren't.

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1 CHAIRMAN BOTTAZZI: Now the other  
 2 thing is, let me explain to you, is that we  
 3 have funds that we haven't -- we got grants  
 4 and so forth and this money had to be  
 5 earning us interest. We were making a lot  
 6 more money on our money three years ago,  
 7 two years ago than we are now. Sometimes  
 8 it doesn't even pay to transfer it.

9 MR. FINELLI: Everybody that has a  
 10 retirement account can say the same thing.  
 11 I had a lot more money when the market was  
 12 at 14,000.

13 CHAIRMAN BOTTAZZI: Thank you.  
 14 Did we get your name?

15 MR. FINELLI: Vic Finelli.

16 CHAIRMAN BOTTAZZI: Not from  
 17 Cherry Quay Road, is it?

18 MR. FINELLI: No, I live off of  
 19 Drum Point Road.

20 CHAIRMAN BOTTAZZI: Okay. Anyone  
 21 else? Anybody can add to what I had to  
 22 say? No? Mr. Holman?


23 MR. HOLMAN: No. I think you did  
 24 very well.

25 CHAIRMAN BOTTAZZI: Okay. Thank  
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1 you. What's next on our agenda?  
 2 MR. DASTI: Mr. Chairman, if  
 3 there's no other discussion, you have a  
 4 resolution in front of you to approve the  
 5 rates for the coming year beginning  
 6 April 1st of 2010.  
 7 CHAIRMAN BOTTAZZI: Are we going  
 8 to vote on that one year?  
 9 MR. DASTI: You normally vote at  
 10 it at this hearing, yes, sir.  
 11 CHAIRMAN BOTTAZZI: Okay. At  
 12 this time I'll ask for a motion to adopt  
 13 the Resolution.  
 14 COMM. VENI: I'll make that motion  
 15 to accept Resolution 30-10.  
 16 COMM. BUTTACAVOLI: I'll second  
 17 it.  
 18 CHAIRMAN BOTTAZZI: Roll call,  
 19 please.  
 20 MS. SYLVESTER: Commissioner  
 21 Buttacavoli?  
 22 COMM. BUTTACAVOLI: Yes.  
 23 MS. SYLVESTER: Commissioner  
 24 Ciocco?  
 25 COMM. CIOCCO: Yes.  
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CERTIFICATE

1  
 2  
 3  
 4 I, MELISSA LUMI, a Certified Shorthand  
 5 Reporter and Notary Public of the State of New  
 6 Jersey certify that the foregoing is a true and  
 7 accurate Computerized Transcript of the Meeting.  
 8 I further certify that I am neither  
 9 attorney, of counsel for, nor related to or  
 10 employed by any of the parties to the action in  
 11 which the Depositions are taken, and further that  
 12 I am not a relative or employee of any attorney  
 13 or counsel employed in this case, nor am I  
 14 financially interested in the action.  
 15  
 16  
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 MELISSA LUMI, C.S.R.  
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1 MS. SYLVESTER: Commissioner Veni?  
 2 COMM. VENI: Yes.  
 3 MS. SYLVESTER: Commissioner  
 4 McBride?  
 5 COMM. McBRIDE: Yes.  
 6 MS. SYLVESTER: Chairman Bottazzi?  
 7 CHAIRMAN BOTTAZZI: Yes. If  
 8 there's no one else that has any input or  
 9 anything else to say, at this time I'll  
 10 entertain a motion to adjourn.  
 11 COMM. VENI: Did you want to read  
 12 the closing statement?  
 13 CHAIRMAN BOTTAZZI: No.  
 14 COMM. VENI: I'll make that motion  
 15 to adjourn this meeting.  
 16 COMM. CIOCCO: Second.  
 17 CHAIRMAN BOTTAZZI: All in favor?  
 18 ALL MEMBERS: Aye.  
 19 (Whereupon, Rate Hearing was  
 20 concluded at 6:33 p.m.)  
 21  
 22  
 23  
 24  
 25  
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|   |  |   |  |   |  |   |
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**CERTIFICATION**

I hereby certify that the foregoing transcript prepared by Melissa J. Lumi, CSR, along with any addendums prepared by the Executive Supervisor, and/or Authority Legal Counsel, attached hereto, represents the minutes of the Annual Rate Hearing of The Brick Township Municipal Utilities Authority, County of Ocean, State of New Jersey, held on Monday, March 22, 2010.

Respectfully submitted,



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Joseph P. Buttacavoli, DMD, Secretary