

**MINUTES**  
**August 8, 2023**

The Meeting of the Board of Commissioners of the Borough of Allenhurst was held on the above date with Mayor McLaughlin presiding, Commissioner McLoughlin, and Commissioner Cumiskey in attendance. Also in attendance was the Borough Clerk and Borough Attorney.

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 P.M. with a salute to the flag.

Mayor McLaughlin announced that the notice requirements of R.S. 10:4-18 had been satisfied by delivering the required notice to the Coaster, posting the notice on the board in Borough Hall and filing a copy of said notice with the Borough Clerk.

**COMMUNICATIONS:**

- Notice of Public Hearing from the Monmouth County Division of Transportation to be held on 8/17/23 regarding their grant applications.
- Four Notices from New Jersey Natural Gas regarding hearings, to be held on August 23, 2023, concerning their filings for cost recovery associated with Energy Efficiency Programs,

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

Beach Illumination will be held on Sunday August 20, 2023, from 5pm to 9pm.

**ORDINANCE #2023-11 First Reading - AJOURNED**

**ORDINANCE NO.: 2023-11**  
**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING AND SUPPLEMENTING**  
**CHAPTER IX (BUILDING & HOUSING), SECTION 3.7**  
**(BRUSH, HEDGES AND OTHER PLANTS) OF THE**  
**MUNICIPAL CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF**  
**ALLENHURST.**

**WHEREAS**, the Borough Council of the Borough of Allenhurst has determined that it is in the best interests of the community to revise '9-3.7 of the Borough Code concerning the maintenance of Brush, Hedges and Other Plants in the Borough.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED** by the Borough of Allenhurst, County of Monmouth, State of New Jersey, that the Borough Code of the Borough of Allenhurst be and is hereby amended and supplemented as follows:

**I.** Chapter IX, Section 3.7 be and is hereby revised by deleting the existing section 9-3.7 entitled ABrush, Hedges and Other Plants and to replace it with the following:

Legislative Statement:

The Board of Commissioners of the Borough of Allenhurst are ever mindful of preserving the aesthetics of our hometown. As such, we have enacted ordinances with the intent to keep the Borough reflective of its visual heritage. This is one such ordinance. Its purpose is to preserve the ability of pedestrians and motorists to see the historic architecture and homes from the sidewalk and street, and to see that they are not obscured by hedges. It is also important to protect views of the ocean where applicable.

This ordinance establishes that homes cannot have hedges (or the combination of retaining structures and hedges) exceeding four (4') feet in height along the frontage of their property as it relates to (i.e. is measured from) the top of the adjacent sidewalk. To be clear, it is the Board's intent that homes shall not be concealed from view by plants or structures (or any combination thereof) that exceed four feet (4') in height.

The Board of Commissioners trusts that this Legislative Statement will assist our homeowners understanding of our continuing vision for the Borough, and explains why we believe enforcing this ordinance is a necessity to preserve our community.

'9-3.7. Brush, Hedges and Other Plants.

a. Conformance Required. The provisions of this article shall govern the minimum conditions and responsibilities of the owners, tenants or residents of property for the maintenance of the exterior of the property, including all vacant structures, premises and vacant land. All property, structures or vacant land shall be maintained in a clean, safe, secure and sanitary condition as provided herein so as not to adversely affect the public health or safety.

b. Brush, Hedges or other view obstructing plant height limitations. From the adoption of this Ordinance forward:

i. No property in the Borough shall have brush, hedges or any other view obstructing plants (as distinguished from deciduous trees) (hereinafter collectively referred to as "hedges") in any front yard and up to the front setback of the house, that exceed four feet (4') in height, as measured from the adjacent sidewalk, including hedges combined with retaining or other structures. This shall be inclusive of trees and plants of any kind whatsoever that are arranged in such a manner that they will in fact obstruct views.

ii. For all properties east of Ocean Avenue, from the front setback of the house to the rear sideline of any such property, hedges shall not exceed five feet (5') in height, as measured from the ground immediately adjacent to such hedges. The Board takes these actions specifically to keep potential ocean views available from front porches and backyards.

iii. For all properties west of Ocean Avenue up to the easterly side of Norwood Avenue (otherwise known as the 100 block) from the front setback of the house to the rear sideline of any such property, hedges shall not exceed eight feet (8') in height, as measured from the ground immediately adjacent to such hedges. Our intent here is to protect the potential views from the second story on these blocks.

iv. For corner lots and homes that ONLY have front yards, but no backyards, from the front setback of the house to the boundary of an adjacent property, there shall be no height restriction upon hedges. Such properties must still comply with section 9-3.7(b)(i) above, as the same applies to ALL properties throughout the Borough.

v. For all properties west of Norwood Avenue up to the easterly side of Page Avenue (otherwise known as the 200 block) from the front setback of the house to the rear sideline of any such property, hedges shall not exceed ten feet (10') in height, as measured from the ground immediately adjacent to such hedges.

vi. For all properties west of Page Avenue up to the easterly side of Main Street (otherwise known as the 300 block) from the front setback of the house to the rear sideline of any such property, there shall be no height restriction upon hedges. Such properties must still comply with section 9-3.7(b)(i) above, as the same applies to ALL properties throughout the Borough.

vii. For all properties west of Main Street from the front setback of the house to the rear sideline of any such property, there shall be no height restriction upon hedges. Such properties must still comply with section 9-3.7(b)(i) above, as the same applies to ALL properties throughout the Borough.

c. Service of Notice. Notice to cut and remove objectionable brush, hedges and other plant life shall be given by the Borough Clerk/Administrator and/or his or her designee to the owner, tenant or resident by registered mail or certified mail, return receipt requested to the last known post office address.

d. Determination of Need for Cutting. The Board of Commissioners of the Borough of Allenhurst shall determine, by resolution, when such notice shall be given pursuant to this subsection.

e. Removal by Borough. In the event of the failure of any owner, tenant or resident to keep all brush, hedges and other plant life growing within ten (10) feet of any roadway, and within twenty-five (25) feet of the intersection of two (2) roadways, cut to a height of not more than four feet (4'), as measured from the adjacent sidewalk, after written notice thereof, the Borough may proceed to cause the cutting and removal of such brush, hedges and other plant life under the direction of the Borough Clerk/Administrator and/or his or her designee.

f. Lien for Costs. In any case where the Borough has cut and removed brush, hedges and other plant life, the Borough Clerk/Administrator and/or his or her designee shall thereafter certify to the Borough Council the cost thereof, and if the amount so certified is by resolution of the Borough Council determined to be correct and reasonable, the Borough Clerk/Administrator and/or his or her designee shall deliver a certified copy of the resolution to the Tax Collector. The amount so charged shall become a lien upon such lands from which the brush, hedges and other plant life were cut and removed, and shall be added to and become and form part of the taxes next to be assessed and levied upon such lands, the same to bear interest at the same rate as other taxes, and shall be collected and enforced by the Tax Collector in the same manner as taxes, as authorized by N.J.S.A. 40:48.2-26 and 40:48.2-27.

g. Reduction of nonconforming hedges. In the event any property owner with pre-existing

nonconforming hedge heights reduces the hedge heights and/or brings them into conformance herewith, the same shall no longer be treated as "grandfathered" and shall thereafter conform to the height requirements established herein.

h. Removal of nonconforming hedges. In the event any property owner removes hedges or plantings which are not in conformance with the height restrictions set forth herein, any the new plantings shall comply with the height requirements established herein.

i. Violations and Penalties. Any person who shall refuse or neglect, after written notice as above set forth, to comply with the demands therein made with respect to the cutting of the brush, hedges and other plant life for the preservation of the public safety of the citizens of the Borough, within the period of time above set fourth, shall, upon conviction thereof, be liable to a penalty not to exceed a fine of five hundred (\$500.00) dollars, and each and every day in which the owner, tenant or resident shall refuse or neglect so to cut the offending brush, hedges and other plant life shall be and constitute a separate offense. The imposition and collection of any fine or penalty prescribed by this subsection shall not bar the right of the Borough to collect the cost of the cutting of the brush, hedges and other plant life, as hereinbefore specified; and the remedies shall be cumulative.

**REPEALER.** All other sections and subsections of Chapter IX not specifically amended by this Ordinance, shall remain in full force and effect.

**INCONSISTENT ORDINANCES.** All other Ordinances or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Ordinance are hereby repealed as to such inconsistency.

**SEVERABILITY.** If any section, paragraph, subdivision, clause or provision of this Ordinance shall be adjudged invalid, such adjudication shall apply only to the section, paragraph, subdivision, clause or provision so adjudged and the remainder of this Ordinance shall be deemed valid and effective.

**AND IT IS FURTHER ORDAINED** that this Ordinance shall take effect twenty (20) days after the first publication thereof after final passage as provided by law.

### **ORDINANCES – First Reading – 2023-13**

#### **ORDINANCE 2023-13**

#### **AN ORDINANCE VACATING CHAPTER VII, SECTION 17 c ('7-17 c) OF THE PARKING ORDINANCES OF THE BOROUGH OF ALLENHURST.**

Offered By: Mayor McLaughlin

Seconded By: Comm. McLoughlin

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Commissioners of the Borough of Allenhurst has determined that it is in the best interests of the community to revise certain portions of its existing Parking Ordinances to address the needs of the community;

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED** by the Board of Commissioners of the Borough of Allenhurst, County of Monmouth, State of New Jersey, that the Borough of Allenhurst Revised General Ordinances are hereby amended and supplemented as follows:

**I.** Chapter VII, section 17 c ('7-17 c) be and is hereby vacated and permanently deleted from the Borough Code of the Borough of Allenhurst; and it is further

**ORDAINED** that except as herein above provided, the remainder of Chapter VII, TRAFFIC, shall remain unaltered and in full force and effect; and it is further

**ORDAINED** that the provisions of this ordinance are declared to be severable, and if any section, subsection, sentence, clause or phrase hereof shall, for any reason, be held to be invalid or unconstitutional, such decision shall not affect the validity of the remaining sections, subsections, clauses and phrases of this ordinance which shall stand notwithstanding the invalidity of any part; and it is further

**ORDAINED**, That this Ordinance shall take effect after publication and adoption according to law.

VOTE: Comm. McLoughlin--AYE; Comm. Cumiskey-AYE; Mayor McLaughlin-AYE

### **ORDINANCE #2023-14 First Reading**

#### **ORDINANCE 2023-14**

#### **AN ORDINANCE REVISING THE PARKING ORDINANCES OF THE BOROUGH OF ALLENHURST.**

Offered By: Mayor McLaughlin

Seconded By: Comm. McLoughlin

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Commissioners of the Borough of Allenhurst has determined that it is in the best interests of the community to revise certain portions of its existing Parking Ordinances to address the needs of the community;

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED** by the Board of Commissioners of the Borough of Allenhurst, County of Monmouth, State of New Jersey, that the Code of the Borough of Allenhurst is hereby amended and supplemented as follows:

**I.** Chapter VII, section 17 ('7-17) be and is hereby revised to delete the current sections b. 1-4 and replace them with the following:

b. Special Permit Parking

1. The parking space closest to the Main Gate of the Allenhurst Beach Club ("ABC"), which is not marked as a handicapped parking space, shall be set aside for special permit parking and shall be marked as such by the Borough of Allenhurst.

2. The parking space closest to the Cabana entrance of the ABC, which is not marked as a handicapped parking space, shall be set aside for special permit parking and shall be marked as such by the Borough of Allenhurst. [Amended 4-28-2020 by Ord. No. 2020-06].

3. The two (2) angles parking spaces closest to Corlies Avenue gate of the ABC, along the northerly sideline of the ABC (*which is also the southerly side line of Corlies Avenue*) which are not marked as handicapped parking, shall be set aside for special permit parking and designated for use of the Allenhurst Fire Department and the First Aid Responders and shall be marked as such by the Borough of Allenhurst.

4. Any person parking a motor vehicle in a special permit parking space without a special permit vehicle identification card shall be liable for a fine of \$250 for the first offense and, for subsequent offenses, a fine of at least \$250 and up to 90 days' community service on such terms and in such form as the court shall deem appropriate or any combination thereof. [Added 4-28-2020 by Ord. No. 2020-06].

5. Any vehicle parking in violation of this section shall be subject to removal by a law enforcement officer. It shall be the obligation of the owner of the motor vehicle to pay the reasonable costs for the removal and for any storage fees which may result from the removal. [Added 4-28-2020 by Ord. No. 2020-06]; and it is further

**II. ORDAINED** that except as herein above provided, the remainder of Chapter VII, TRAFFIC, shall remain unaltered and in full force and effect; and it is further

**III. ORDAINED** that the provisions of this ordinance are declared to be severable, and if any section, subsection, sentence, clause or phrase hereof shall, for any reason, be held to be invalid or unconstitutional, such decision shall not affect the validity of the remaining sections, subsections, clauses and phrases of this ordinance which shall stand notwithstanding the invalidity of any part; and it is further

**IV. ORDAINED**, That this Ordinance shall take effect after publication and adoption according to law.

VOTE: Comm. McLoughlin--AYE; Comm. Cumiskey-AYE; Mayor McLaughlin-AYE

## **RESOLUTIONS**

### **RESOLUTION #2023-166A**

#### **A RESOLUTION TO RATIFY AND APPROVE MINUTES**

Offered By: Comm. McLoughlin

Seconded By: Mayor McLaughlin

**BE IT RESOLVED**, That the minutes of the Regular Meeting of July 11, 2023 be ratified and approved.

VOTE: Comm. McLoughlin--AYE; Comm. Cumiskey-ABSTAIN; Mayor McLaughlin-AYE

**RESOLUTION #2023-166B**

**A RESOLUTION TO RATIFY AND APPROVE MINUTES**

Offered By: Comm. McLoughlin

Seconded By: Mayor McLaughlin

**BE IT RESOLVED**, That the minutes of the Regular Meetings of July 25, 2023 be ratified and approved.

VOTE: Comm. McLoughlin--AYE; Comm. Cumiskey-AYE; Mayor McLaughlin-ABSTAIN

**RESOLUTION #2023-167**

**A RESOLUTION TO DISPENSE WITH READING OF MINUTES**

Offered By: Comm. McLoughlin

Seconded By: Mayor McLaughlin

**BE IT RESOLVED**, That the Clerk dispense with the reading of the Regular Meetings of July 11, 2023 and July 25, 2023.

VOTE: Comm. McLoughlin--AYE; Comm. Cumiskey-AYE; Mayor McLaughlin-AYE

**RESOLUTION #2023-168**

**A RESOLUTION TO APPROVE 2022 AUDIT**

Offered By: Comm. McLoughlin

Seconded By: Mayor McLaughlin

**WHEREAS**, N.J.S.A. 40A:5-4 requires the governing body of every local unit to have made an annual audit of its books, accounts and financial transactions; and,

**WHEREAS**, The Annual Report of Audit for the year 2022 has been filed by a Registered Municipal Accountant with the Municipal Clerk as per the requirements of N.J.S. 40A:5-6, and a copy has been received by each member of the governing body; and,

**WHEREAS**, The Local Finance Board of the State of New Jersey is authorized to prescribe reports pertaining to the local fiscal affairs, as per R.S. 52:27BB-34; and,

**WHEREAS**, The Local Finance Board has promulgated a regulation requiring that the governing body of each municipality shall, by resolution, certify to the Local Finance Board of the State of New Jersey that all members of the governing body have reviewed, at a minimum, the sections of the annual audit entitled:

General Comments

Recommendations and,

**WHEREAS**, The members of the governing body have personally reviewed at a minimum the Annual Report of Audit, and specifically the sections of the Annual Audit entitled:

General Comments

Recommendations

as evidenced by the group affidavit form of the governing body; and,

**WHEREAS**, Such resolution of certification shall be adopted by the governing body no later than forty-five days after receipt of the annual audit, as per the regulations of the Local Finance Board; and,

**WHEREAS**, All members of the governing body have received and have familiarized themselves with at least the minimum requirements of the Local Finance Board of the State of New Jersey, as stated aforesaid and have subscribed to the affidavit, as provided by the Local Finance Board; and,

**WHEREAS**, Failure to comply with the promulgations of the Local Finance Board of the State of New Jersey may subject the members of the local governing body to the penalty provisions of R.S. 52:27BB-52 - to wit:

"R.S. 52:27BB-52 - "A local officer or member of a local governing body who, after a date fixed for compliance, fails or refuses to obey an order of the director (Director of Local Government Services), under the provisions of this Article, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction, may be fined no more than one thousand dollars (\$1,000.00) or imprisoned for not more than one year, or both, in addition shall forfeit his office."

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, That the governing body of the Borough of Allenhurst, hereby states that it has complied with the promulgation of the Local Finance Board of the State of New Jersey dated July 30, 1968 and does hereby submit a certified copy of this resolution and the required affidavit to said Board to show evidence of said compliance.

VOTE: Comm. McLoughlin--AYE; Comm. Cumiskey-AYE; Mayor McLaughlin-AYE

**RESOLUTION #2023-169**  
**A RESOLUTION TO APPROVE RACE IN BOROUGH OF ALLENHURST**  
Offered By: Comm. McLoughlin                      Seconded By: Mayor McLaughlin

**WHEREAS**, The Special Olympics New Jersey and the Jersey Shore Running Club have requested permission to run a portion of their annual RunAPalooza Race to Benefit Special Olympics through the Borough of Allenhurst on Saturday, April 6, 2024; and,  
**WHEREAS**, A parade route has been provided which will take the marathon down Ocean Avenue, starting at approximately 9:00 AM and ending at approximately Noon and a Certificate of Insurance for this event will be provided; and,  
**WHEREAS**, The Police Chief has reviewed the information given for this event and has recommended approval of same;  
**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, By the Board of Commissioners, that approval is hereby given to the Special Olympics New Jersey and the Jersey Shore Running Club to run a portion of their annual RunAPalooza through Allenhurst on April 4, 2024, contingent upon the Borough receiving a Certificate of Insurance prior to the event.

VOTE: Comm. McLoughlin--AYE; Comm. Cumiskey-AYE; Mayor McLaughlin-AYE

**RESOLUTION #2023-170**  
**A RESOLUTION TO AWARD CONTRACT FOR A NEW HVAC SYSTEM AT THE ALLENHURST FIRE HOUSE**  
Offered By: Comm. McLoughlin                      Seconded By: Mayor McLaughlin

**WHEREAS**, There is a need for a new HVAC system at the Allenhurst Fire House; and,  
**WHEREAS**, Funds for this purpose will be provided for in the current account known as “Public Buildings Misc. #3-01-26-772-218”, and the Chief Finance Officer has so certified;  
**WHEREAS**, The following three quotes were received from the following vendors and are on file with the Borough Clerk:

A. Bailey Plumbing	\$13,375.00
C&C Plumbing	\$15,480.00
OceanSide Service Inc.	Quote was non-compliant

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, That a contract be awarded to A. Bailey Plumbing for a cost of \$13,375.00, the lowest of quotes received for a new HVAC system a the Allenhurst Fire House.

VOTE: Comm. McLoughlin--AYE; Comm. Cumiskey-AYE; Mayor McLaughlin-AYE

**RESOLUTION #2023-171**  
**A RESOLUTION TO HIRE SEASONAL EMPLOYEES**  
Offered By: Comm. McLoughlin                      Seconded By: Mayor McLaughlin

BE IT RESOLVED, That the following be hired for the 2023 summer season:

	Name	Rate of Pay	
Poolside	Grant Gyrta	\$12.93	per hour
Poolside	Andreas Barrett	\$12.93	per hour

VOTE: Comm. McLoughlin--AYE; Comm. Cumiskey-AYE; Mayor McLaughlin-AYE

**RESOLUTION #2023-172**  
**A RESOLUTION TO APPROVE MEMBER IN ALLENHURST FIRST AID SQUAD**  
Offered By: Comm. McLoughlin                      Seconded By: Mayor McLaughlin

**WHEREAS**, The Membership Committee of Allenhurst First Aid Squad has received an application for membership from Sol Mandalaoui; and,  
**WHEREAS**, The Membership Committee has advised the Board of Commissioners that Sol Mandalaoui is acceptable for membership;  
**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, That Sol Mandalaoui is approved for membership in Allenhurst First Aid Squad; and,

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, That the Borough Clerk be and is hereby authorized to execute the necessary paperwork on behalf of the aforementioned applicant.

VOTE: Comm. McLoughlin--AYE; Comm. Cumiskey-AYE; Mayor McLaughlin-AYE

**RESOLUTION #2023-173**

**A RESOLUTION TO APPROVE EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Offered By: Comm. McLoughlin

Seconded By: Mayor McLaughlin

**WHEREAS**, State law permits the exclusion of public in certain circumstances; and,  
**WHEREAS**, The Board of Commissioners of the Borough of Allenhurst finds that such circumstances currently exist; and,

**WHEREAS**, The Board of Commissioners will make public, minutes of the closed session when confidentiality no longer exists;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, By the Board of Commissioners that they are hereby authorized to enter into closed session to discuss legal/contractual matters which are exempt from the public meeting under the Sunshine Law.

VOTE: Comm. McLoughlin--AYE; Comm. Cumiskey-AYE; Mayor McLaughlin-AYE

**RESOLUTION #2023-174**

**A RESOLUTION TO APPROVE BILLS (7-12-2023 to 8-8-2023)**

Offered By: Comm. McLoughlin

Seconded By: Mayor McLaughlin

**BE IT RESOLVED**, That bills totaling \$510,500.40 be approved for payment; and,  
**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, That the August 8, 2023 consolidated bill list be attached hereto and made a part thereof.

VOTE: Comm. McLoughlin--AYE; Comm. Cumiskey-AYE; Mayor McLaughlin-AYE

**ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION:**

Discussion of potential improvements to our current fire, police, and EMS dispatch system – See attached full transcript of this meeting for details.

**OPEN PUBLIC HEARING:**

See attached full transcript of this meeting for details.

There being no further business or comments, Comm. McLoughlin moved, seconded by Mayor McLaughlin that the meeting move to executive session at 9:00 PM. Motion carried.

After reconvening, Mayor McLaughlin moved, seconded by Comm. McLoughlin that the meeting be adjourned at 9:30 PM. Motion carried

T R A N S C R I P T of the digitally  
recorded proceedings in the above-entitled matter as  
taken by KALLIE M. PRERA, a Certified Court  
Transcriptionist of the State of New Jersey, held on  
August 8, 2023.



1 P R E S E N T:

2 MAYOR MCLAUGHLIN

3 COMMISSIONER CUMISKEY

4 COMMISSIONER MCLAUGHLIN

5 FIRE CHIEF MICHAEL POWERS

6 POLICE CHIEF SCHNEIDER

7 UNDERSHERIFF PHIL MEEHAN

8 UNDERSHERIFF BOB LAWSON

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1                   MR. MCLAUGHLIN: I'm here. Notice  
2 requirements of the state statute have been  
3 satisfied, I believe, with prior notice to the poster  
4 and the answer (indiscernible) in borough hall on or  
5 about (indiscernible). Now, do you want to  
6 (indiscernible)?

7                   A VOICE: Sure. We have notice of  
8 public hearing from the Monmouth County Division of  
9 Transportation to be held on August 17th regarding  
10 their grant applications. We have four notices from  
11 New Jersey Natural Gas regarding hearings to be held  
12 on August 23rd concerning their filings for cost  
13 recovery associated with Energy Efficiency Programs.

14                  MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Just a quick  
15 announcement, the Beach Illumination will be held  
16 Sunday, August 20th, from 5:00 to 9:00, for those of  
17 you who are (indiscernible) to that. The  
18 (indiscernible) department will be sending flares.  
19 They will be lit out on the beach. It's really quite  
20 nice. They have food trucks, food trucks coming in  
21 from (indiscernible) Avenue. If you're interested in  
22 purchasing a flare to be lit, please see the  
23 (indiscernible) police department for  
24 (indiscernible).

25                  A VOICE: (Indiscernible) is joining us

1     this year; correct?

2                   MR. MCLAUGHLIN:  Yep, (indiscernible)  
3     -- calendar, is probably down to the (indiscernible).  
4     It should be -- should be very nice.  That brings us  
5     to the ordinances.  First one is 2023-11  
6     (indiscernible) -- so, 2023-11, I'll go back to this  
7     in second, but we're going to adjourn it tonight.  
8     The next one is an ordinance, 2023-13, this is the  
9     first reading.  This has to do with parking.  So,  
10    I'll offer it.

11                   A VOICE:  Second.

12                   MR. MCLAUGHLIN:  All those in favor?

13                   MR. CUMISKEY:  Aye.

14                   MR. MCLAUGHLIN:  Aye.  Again now, this  
15    is the first reading, so it will be open for public  
16    comment and public has a chance to read it.  The  
17    second one is again, first reading, 2023-14.  Again,  
18    more -- it has to do with parking.  I'll offer it.

19                   MR. CUMISKEY:  Second.

20                   MR. MCLAUGHLIN:  All those in favor?

21    Aye.

22                   MR. CUMISKEY:  Aye.

23                   MR. MCLAUGHLIN:  I'd like to go back  
24    again to the first ordinance that we've adjourned.  
25    This ordinance was actually on last meeting in July.

1 I was not at the meeting, but I understand that it  
2 was tabled because there were some edits that had to  
3 be made. We have not made those edits as of yet. So  
4 again, as we've adjourned, and we're going to have to  
5 re-write, I guess a couple sentences (indiscernible)  
6 to clarify.

7 One thing that I do want to make clear so  
8 everyone knows, that this is for -- going forward, it  
9 is nothing to do with what you have now. So,  
10 whatever you have now, it stays the same. You're not  
11 going to have to change anything.

12 A VOICE: You may want to just clarify  
13 that this -- you're talking about the hedge  
14 ordinance.

15 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: The hedge ordinance,  
16 okay? I just want to make sure everybody's aware of  
17 that. It's nothing to do with what you currently  
18 have. It's for going forward. And again, if it is  
19 introduced, there's a time period where everybody can  
20 read, make comments and suggestions. You know, the  
21 board is more than willing to take in all comments  
22 and suggestions, but I wanted to clarify that. All  
23 right, why don't we continue with the agenda?

24 MR. CUMISKEY: I'd like to offer the  
25 consent agenda, 2023-166 through 173. I'll offer it.

1                   A VOICE: Just yeah, I have one thing,  
2     the (indiscernible)?

3                   MR. CUMISKEY: Yes.

4                   A VOICE: I just want to retake 167,  
5     and I'll (indiscernible).

6                   MR. CUMISKEY: Okay. So, I wanted to  
7     consent to just the resolutions 2023-166 through 173,  
8     omitting 167. I'll offer it.

9                   MR. MCLAUGHLIN: I'll second. All  
10    those in favor? Aye.

11                  MR. CUMISKEY: Aye.

12                  MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Now, do you want to go  
13    through that and (indiscernible) --

14                  A VOICE: Yeah, so I just want to  
15    separate that, because Mr. Cumiskey was not here on  
16    the 13th --

17                  MR. CUMISKEY: Yeah, I'd have to  
18    abstain from the July 11th meeting.

19                  A VOICE: So Chris, if you can just go  
20    to that one and read from it separately to  
21    (indiscernible) each set, because --

22                  MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Chris, you and I will  
23    approve that one because (indiscernible) --

24                  MR. CUMISKEY: Just 167?

25                  A VOICE: For the -- July 7th -- 11th

1 meeting.

2 MR. CUMISKEY: Okay. So, I'd like to  
3 offer resolution 2023-167, and the clerk dispensed  
4 with the reading of those minutes of the July 11,  
5 2023 and July 25th, 2023 meetings. I'll over it.

6 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: I'll second. All  
7 those in favor? Aye.

8 MR. CUMISKEY: Aye. I'd like to offer  
9 resolution 2023-174, approving bills and payroll,  
10 totalling 510,500.40. I'll offer it.

11 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Second. All those in  
12 favor? Aye.

13 MR. CUMISKEY: Aye.

14 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Good evening,  
15 everybody. Before we offer it to the public, we have  
16 the police chief here, Mike Schneider. And the main  
17 topic tonight is actually the dispatch for the police  
18 and the fire department. As many of you know, we've  
19 had some ongoing issues with the dispatch and  
20 equipment. The chief has been tasked, the past  
21 couple of months, researching various options for  
22 that.

23 I think we had a discussion, I can't remember,  
24 I think it was in the fall (indiscernible), but it's  
25 been ongoing. He has done quite a bit of research.

1 We also have two Monmouth County undersheriffs here  
2 that are going to speak tonight. Chief, I'm going to  
3 ask you to come up, if you don't mind, and talk about  
4 this, if you can run through the county dispatch and  
5 what we have.

6 Before we begin, I do just want to clarify a  
7 few things. Some residents have come up to me and  
8 said oh, you know, the chief's hands are tied. He  
9 has to do this. Chief, I just want to clarify. This  
10 is something that you've been working on and  
11 informing us as you go along. But this is like a  
12 decision, if it's made, would be an agreement;  
13 correct?

14 MR. SCHNEIDER: Yes.

15 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: And it's something  
16 that, you know, in the long term, you think this is a  
17 long-term solution for a serious problem that we  
18 have.

19 MR. SCHNEIDER: I think it's the best  
20 long-term solution.

21 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: And you know, it's not  
22 a question of money. And I want to emphasize that  
23 because some people say oh, you know, it's important  
24 to spend the money. This has nothing to do with  
25 money. So with that, I'd like to now, again, if you

1 don't mind, if you could come up and give us a quick  
2 run-down, and then introduce the two Monmouth County  
3 undersheriffs.

4 MR. CUMISKEY: Before you start, Chief,  
5 I'm just asking everyone to please hold your  
6 questions until the end. There's several speakers.  
7 We want to get through all the information, and  
8 they'd be happy to answer all questions at the end.  
9 They'll probably answer the questions as they go  
10 through the presentations.

11 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Yeah. So please, just  
12 hold your questions until he's done; okay? So  
13 (indiscernible) --

14 A VOICE: (Indiscernible) --

15 MR. SCHNEIDER: So, our radio system at  
16 headquarters has been failing over the last few  
17 years. It's gotten to the point where there's  
18 nothing we can do anymore to repair our radio system.  
19 And that's caused problems for the fire department  
20 and it's caused problems with our officers both on  
21 calls, on actual fire calls, but also on motor  
22 vehicle stops where the portable units aren't even  
23 making it to headquarters anymore.

24 So, it's definitely at the point where it's  
25 not a fix issue, and it's making issues for our fire



1 department. So, some of the options we have  
2 available to us, like I said, there are no repairs  
3 that we can make to our current system. Our portable  
4 radios should go way outside of town, and dispatch  
5 should be able to still hear them. That is not the  
6 case anymore.

7 When I take this portable home, I get slightly  
8 outside of town and the radio starts breaking up very  
9 quickly. When I (indiscernible) a little bit less  
10 than Route 18, the signal is (indiscernible). So,  
11 we've looked at different options. We've looked into  
12 newer radios. The newer radios, there's a problem  
13 with just getting new radios. We can't just get new  
14 radios because the new radios rely on the  
15 infrastructure.

16 The infrastructure that we have in place  
17 currently would make any of the newer radios, they --  
18 they're not compatible. So, we would have to upgrade  
19 the infrastructure. So, one of the options that we  
20 looked at is (indiscernible) county dispatch system.  
21 Their infrastructure is already in place, so I don't  
22 (indiscernible) speak to that. But any one of the  
23 possible affordable radios that we were looking at,  
24 I've actually taken one of them home with me in  
25 Freehold. They call from inside of my condo in

1 Freehold (indiscernible) to our dispatch, and our  
2 dispatch answered me (indiscernible) on the radio  
3 next (indiscernible) in the room next to me.

4 That's part of the problem, is the equipment.  
5 The other problem is the staffing for our dispatch.  
6 We've had a tremendously hard time, like everybody  
7 else around the county, finding people to stay  
8 (indiscernible) our dispatch issues. Luckily, we  
9 went into the summer with four full-time dispatchers  
10 (indiscernible), which is what we were supposed to  
11 have. But before that, we were staffing our dispatch  
12 positions with police officers.

13 So, that -- the moral is that, that's taking a  
14 police officer off the road. That officer is better  
15 on patrol than sitting there and working the desk.  
16 We did have -- we did have a (indiscernible) of how  
17 many hours we'd done over the last year, year and a  
18 half, however, how many officers' hours were taken  
19 off of the road to cover a desk shift, and it's like  
20 880 hours. So, by not having to worry about covering  
21 those desk shifts, because every new dispatcher  
22 (indiscernible), we had to have an officer cover  
23 those shifts.

24 Just getting people to apply to take those  
25 jobs has been the (indiscernible) difficult. Again,

1 not just ours, but all around the county. Some  
2 people say we're not paying the dispatchers enough.  
3 There are departments around the whole county that  
4 pay those dispatchers way more than we are, and  
5 they're still having trouble staffing their dispatch  
6 positions. So, it's not just a question of pay for  
7 dispatchers.

8 I looked at it, spoke with the county on  
9 numerous occasions. I've gone up there with the  
10 mayor. I've gone up there with one of the  
11 commissioners. And the other part of it that would  
12 open up -- that would break our officers is, the  
13 county runs (indiscernible). So, they run a  
14 (indiscernible) records management system versus what  
15 we're using.

16 When our officers run a stop, we only have the  
17 information available to us (indiscernible). If we  
18 were dealing with county dispatch, we would be  
19 available for their record management situation, and  
20 we would have information from all around the county.  
21 And if an officer stopped (indiscernible) on the  
22 road, we would be able to see where Joe Smith had  
23 been in contact with any other department around the  
24 county that's under the county dispatch.  
25 (Indiscernible) speak to that.

1           There is no doubt in my mind at this point  
2   that this is the best option for us going forward.  
3   Any change involves adjustment by everybody. It has  
4   to be (indiscernible). But every (indiscernible)  
5   that I've talked to that's gone through the county  
6   dispatch, that they've had this (indiscernible) for  
7   the beginning no longer had those hesitations, and  
8   they also said this was the best decision they ever  
9   made. Anyone have any specific questions for me  
10   before I allow the two sheriffs to come up and speak  
11   to their part? So, the two undersheriffs here are --  
12   I'm sorry --

13           MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Mike, hang on a  
14   second. What, Teresa? I'm sorry.

15           A VOICE: (Indiscernible) --

16           A VOICE: Come up to the mic.

17           MR. MCLAUGHLIN: (Indiscernible) like  
18   the chief. We want to make sure we get your voice.

19           A VOICE: I remember that we had -- I  
20   remember that we had this conversation almost a year  
21   ago. And I also remember that you had spoken to some  
22   people that went for the captain and decided not to  
23   go -- or decided to go back.

24           A VOICE: (Indiscernible).

25           A VOICE: The other thing is, that when

1 we -- when I call 911, they know who I am, where I am  
2 immediately. And I just think --

3 MR. SCHNEIDER: Can I interrupt you for  
4 just one second? When you call 911, you're not  
5 talking to us. When you call 911, you  
6 (indiscernible) talk to the county. We have never  
7 answered -- (indiscernible) have never answered 911  
8 calls. Our 911 calls have been going to the county  
9 forever. When you call to the local (indiscernible)  
10 --

11 A VOICE: No, that's correct. I meant  
12 the --

13 MR. SCHNEIDER: So, one of the things I  
14 forgot to mention. And I don't want to cut you off,  
15 but one of the things -- we're still going to  
16 maintain a local number for non-emergency purposes.  
17 So, that 2255 number will still be available. So, if  
18 you have a non-emergency reason to call, that phone  
19 number will still ring to our (indiscernible). And  
20 if it's a non-emergency purpose and there's somebody  
21 at headquarters, they will pick up the phone.

22 It may be me, or we're looking at other  
23 possible -- about possibly having an answering  
24 machine to take your call if there's not a body in  
25 the building. Or, we're looking at possibilities to

1     have that (indiscernible). You call into  
2     headquarters, phone (indiscernible) into a cell phone  
3     within the officer's patrol car.

4             A VOICE: Well, if somebody calls into  
5     police headquarters (indiscernible) --

6             MR. MCLAUGHLIN: So -- so, what we're  
7     planning on doing is, Teresa, we're actually looking  
8     at trying to keep some of the staff to be manning the  
9     office to be there. Just so you know, like, I've  
10    spoken to other towns that have moved to it, and  
11    they've done what we're suggesting to do that.  
12    They've all kind of shied away from it after a year  
13    or two because they've found that the traffic that  
14    was going to there was nil. In other words, people  
15    weren't calling there.

16            They were just sort of used to going to the  
17    county. Atlantic Highlands is one of the towns that  
18    went to it, and they put -- there's, like, a -- what  
19    did they put, a service phone or whatever? You know,  
20    after a year and a half, nobody had called the phone.  
21    It still wasn't being used. But I'm all about it. I  
22    don't like change. I got -- I like my MGs and all  
23    that -- so, I don't like change. I don't like it at  
24    all. But I think, you know, this allows us to kind  
25    of keep the same hometown feeling that we have.

1           I've been out to the county, and I know  
2   Commissioner Cumiskey has too, and taken a tour of  
3   the facility. The equipment that they have that  
4   they're exposing us to to use is mind-blowing. When  
5   you call, they actually can pinpoint on your cell  
6   phone where you are on the screen, exactly where you  
7   are. It's amazing. So, I think as the chief was  
8   saying, maybe there was some bugs when it first  
9   rolled out. But it's taken a while, and they've  
10  gotten all the kinks out of it.

11           MR. SCHNEIDER: And to your point,  
12  staffing in (indiscernible), like the mayor was  
13  saying, was looked at. Put somebody there from 9:00  
14  to 5:00, Monday through Friday. And no one's looked  
15  at, okay, maybe during the busy summer season, we  
16  expand that, other than Monday through Friday, 9:00  
17  to 5:00. Maybe we could extend the (indiscernible).  
18  So yes, we get that, and we're trying to do the best  
19  (indiscernible).

20           MR. MCLAUGHLIN: And Chief, to your  
21  point, and you mentioned it earlier, you think this  
22  would also be a force multiplier?

23           MR. SCHNEIDER: No doubt in my mind,  
24  because for that 880 hours, and don't quote me on it,  
25  but I think it was June 21 or June 22, and I believe

1     it came out to 880 hours, that's 880 hours now that  
2     we're going to have an officer on the road that's  
3     sitting at that desk. So, (indiscernible) our  
4     patrols by 880 hours.

5             MR. MCLAUGHLIN: And if anything, you  
6     know, the Chief and I have discussed, you know, we're  
7     right now considering maybe hiring another officer, a  
8     full-time officer. So, we're not cutting -- that was  
9     another rumor, that we're cutting the police  
10    department. You know, there's no cuts. If anything,  
11    it's the other way. We're thinking of actually  
12    adding on another full-time officer, again, because  
13    we need it because of the summertime influx of  
14    residents that come in. It's very -- a lot of  
15    traffic issues.

16            MR. CUMISKEY: So Chief, you said --  
17    sorry, Mr. Mayor. You did mention, besides the fact  
18    that we'd have a body there 40 hours a week and on  
19    the high season, another body there on the weekends.  
20    If someone called after that person left, 7:30, 9:00  
21    at night and we had an answering machine, your  
22    officers keep checking that answer -- and they'd be  
23    coming into borough hall?

24            MR. SCHNEIDER: That answering machine  
25    would be checked dozens of times a day. Every time



1     they come into the building, they'll be instructed to  
2     check that answering machine and return any call that  
3     came in. And then, we were looking at the other  
4     option of even having some of those calls transferred  
5     to a cell phone within their patrol car.

6             As far as the staffing issue, yes, we have  
7     four full-time dispatchers right now, but three of  
8     them are -- now want to be police officers. So,  
9     those are not four long-term solutions. That is a  
10    problem that a lot of police departments are having.  
11    All right, I got four full-time positions now, but we  
12    know we're going to lose one or two in the next six  
13    months to a year because everyone's looking to move  
14    on. Departments all over the county are having  
15    trouble finding help, not just dispatchers, but  
16    police officers as well. Unfortunately, this is not  
17    the (indiscernible) occupation.

18            MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Chief, do you want to  
19    introduce the undersheriffs?

20            MR. SCHNEIDER: Yeah. So --

21            A VOICE: (Indiscernible) --

22            (Whereupon, multiple people are  
23    speaking at the same time.)

24            MR. SCHNEIDER: -- so, (indiscernible)  
25    came here from the county. He's also a retired

1 police chief from Hazlet, and he can talk about the  
2 county a little bit more. The technological part on  
3 the county level is far better than we could ever do  
4 here in Allenhurst. (Indiscernible) the best system.  
5 We could never keep up with the upgrades that they  
6 have at the county level. It's just impossible. But  
7 this is our (indiscernible) we're ready to do that.

8 MR. CUMISKEY: You want to give him a  
9 hand mic to hold? Just that way they can hear him --  
10 because other -- they're taller than where that mic  
11 is sitting. We've got to stop having Ellie set it up  
12 because she's nice and short.

13 A VOICE: I do talk loud, so I don't  
14 know --

15 MR. CUMISKEY: She'll be the judge of  
16 that.

17 MR. MEEHAN: How is everybody tonight?  
18 My name is Phil Meehan. As the chief mentioned, I  
19 came from the Hazlet (indiscernible), retiring in  
20 2020. So, I was in the same position as your town  
21 is. In 2020 Hazlet's infrastructure failed. And I  
22 was the chief at the time, and I had to make the same  
23 very difficult decision that everyone in this room  
24 and in the community is trying to make.

25 But for us, at the end of the day, it made

1     sense for us to go to the county also. You know,  
2     when you're talking about the cost of infrastructure,  
3     when you're talking about trying to -- to improve the  
4     quality of dispatchers and retain them, when you're  
5     talking about training, all those things, when you  
6     put them all together and lay them out in front of  
7     you, it just makes sense to go that way.

8             I can certainly answer questions in reference  
9     to operation. I took over from Undersheriff Bob  
10    Lawson in -- about two years ago. He had the  
11    operation in the (indiscernible) division for over 10  
12    years. I won't stand up here and pretend to answer  
13    the questions about the IC or the technology. That's  
14    Bob's expertise. That's his baby, and he does a  
15    great job with it. But if there's anything about  
16    operation that I can explain to you, to the point  
17    that calls would come into the center, to the point  
18    that we're dispatching your resources --

19            MR. CUMISKEY: So, can I ask you a  
20    couple of quick questions?

21            MR. MEEHAN: Yeah.

22            MR. CUMISKEY: How many Monmouth County  
23    towns or communities use Monmouth County's dispatch?

24            MR. MEEHAN: So currently, we dispatch  
25    for 20 law enforcement, and 80 forest fire and EMS.

1                   MR. CUMISKEY: Okay. Are the --  
2     because of the system that the county has, and if we  
3     were to go to it, would we be able to communicate  
4     with the neighboring towns like Asbury Park or, you  
5     know, Ocean County, Ocean Township, things like that?

6                   MR. MEEHAN: Yeah. So, that was the  
7     key for us in Hazlet (indiscernible). The key for us  
8     in Hazlet too is that we were on (indiscernible)  
9     without call, and (indiscernible). They're an open  
10    communication system. We couldn't communicate with  
11    the surrounding towns from our ability. You know,  
12    think about that from a -- a motor vehicle stop and  
13    things like that.

14                  You know, we shared, at the time, I can just  
15    use my own personal experiences, we shared multiple  
16    highways, 35 and 36 with Holmdel on one side of it,  
17    Keansburg would be near the beach on the other side  
18    of it. We could be, you know, just several feet up,  
19    and they couldn't hear anything we're doing. So the  
20    answer is yes, and they're (indiscernible) without  
21    communication.

22                  MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Can you also explain  
23    how we get access to the kinetic system and how that  
24    works, and, you know, what the benefit is to the  
25    department?

1                   MR. MEEHAN: You're talking about  
2 records management?

3                   MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Yes, yeah.

4                   MR. MEEHAN: So, the records management  
5 system that's in place, (indiscernible), so that is  
6 available to all the agencies that are dispatched by  
7 the county. They all have access to it. There are  
8 certain things that each department can partition  
9 off, things like they don't want other agencies to  
10 see. You know, that could be (indiscernible), but  
11 they have ability also. So, although you can see  
12 many of the things that you need, you still have the  
13 ability, the chief has the ability to partition off  
14 things that he wouldn't want other towns to see,  
15 anything that would be sensitive to your agency  
16 alone.

17                  MR. MCLAUGHLIN: So, could you also  
18 walk through -- so, I'm a resident. I live over on  
19 Elberon Avenue. I call, you know, I need --  
20 somebody's in front of my house, you know, suspicious  
21 character. How that call works, how your agency will  
22 answer it, how, you know, you have these screens in  
23 front of you and so forth --

24                  MR. MEEHAN: I can.

25                  MR. MCLAUGHLIN: -- and the GPS

1 tracking involved with the --

2 MR. MEEHAN: So right now, what happens  
3 is, if a community member calls 911, it comes into  
4 our center. Our dispatchers take the information and  
5 enter it into a transcript to your dispatch. And at  
6 that point, they dispatch (indiscernible) whether  
7 it's law enforcement, whether that's EMS or fire. If  
8 you decided to come to the county, if a resident  
9 dialled 911, it goes into the center (indiscernible).

10 The only difference is, when our dispatcher  
11 takes the name, the address and the nature of the  
12 call, instead of that being transferred to you, we  
13 eliminate one step. Now, that's pushed over to our  
14 dispatchers, and they're going to go ahead and  
15 dispatch your resources. So, it's actually really  
16 eliminating one of the steps. From the  
17 (indiscernible) tip phone, right now you're operating  
18 several different types of software. There's maps  
19 that'd be available to them. So when that comes up  
20 on the board, all the information is at their  
21 fingertips. Certainly.

22 A VOICE: The incident that occurred  
23 last week, the car accident that occurred in front of  
24 the police department, what would -- had it not  
25 happened in front of the police department where

1 obviously it was going to be (indiscernible), what  
2 would have been the chain of events from that, let's  
3 say -- let's say it happened in front of someone's  
4 house, and someone makes a 911 call for a car  
5 accident (indiscernible). What -- what's the order?  
6 Does it go to the county and then head to the local,  
7 or (indiscernible)?

8 MR. MEEHAN: So, you're talking about  
9 the current, or what the future may look like?

10 A VOICE: No, (indiscernible) happened  
11 last week --

12 A VOICE: (Indiscernible) --

13 MR. SCHNEIDER: (Indiscernible) a good  
14 example. So, let's -- or, last Friday, we had a car  
15 crash into a tree in front of headquarters. Under  
16 our current system, that 911 call goes to the county.  
17 They take the information. They then call us  
18 locally, and then we dispatch our own officers out.  
19 By doing it -- by being with the county, the 911 call  
20 would go into the county. Then they themselves would  
21 be putting out the dispatched call.

22 So, like the undersheriff was saying, that  
23 call is going out as it's -- as the dispatch is  
24 taking the information. The message is also being  
25 passed along to the dispatcher to put out whatever

1 (indiscernible) are needed. So, they had actually  
2 took that step, is what the undersheriff was saying.

3 And I'm glad you brought up the ease of  
4 operability. Right now, we have a problem because  
5 our system is far, far inferior to the  
6 (indiscernible) of our surroundings. So,  
7 (indiscernible) Ocean Township and Asbury Park have  
8 radio systems that are far better than what we have.  
9 We don't even have close to their capability. So,  
10 the only way we can hear what's going on is Asbury  
11 Park is, we have a portable standard. That's only a  
12 little bit bigger than our portable radios, and we  
13 can hear what's going on, for what?

14 If we have (indiscernible) radios that are  
15 digital, we would (indiscernible) radio systems with  
16 their permission, and they would (indiscernible)  
17 because we want to know if they have a bad situation  
18 starting in Asbury and coming our way, we need  
19 advance notice of that before they actually show up  
20 in town. We've had somebody (indiscernible) in my  
21 over 47 years, I've lost track, I couldn't tell you  
22 how many had started in Asbury and either ended in  
23 Allenhurst or driven through Allenhurst, or driven  
24 through and come back, whatever. Right now, we have  
25 a very limited capability of hearing those calls from



1 the surrounding towns. So, that (indiscernible)  
2 operability makes a huge (indiscernible) as well.

3 MR. CUMISKEY: If I could -- and this  
4 is just a point of reference for some of you that may  
5 have children. When I was younger, we lived up in  
6 New York and we had our own dispatch, and we had our  
7 own police. And unfortunately, I was a youngster,  
8 and I was home alone, and I found my grandmother  
9 dead. And I had to call the police, and I for the  
10 love of money could not remember my local dispatch  
11 number, and I ended up calling 911. And then, what  
12 911 did is, they dispatched to my police, who then  
13 came to the house. But to the chief's point, if we  
14 had county, 911 right to the officer, right to the  
15 scene. 911, right to the fire department, right to  
16 the scene.

17 MR. Powers: Can I just say something?

18 MR. CUMISKEY: Yes. Fire Chief Mike  
19 Powers, please come forward.

20 MR. Powers: Just to add to your  
21 question, I --

22 MR. CUMISKEY: Use the mic, Chief,  
23 unless you're going to boom.

24 MR. POWERS: I can boom. So, just to  
25 add to your questions, I would (indiscernible). It

1 just so happened, (indiscernible), and I had an  
2 officer and a dispatcher in (indiscernible). That's  
3 still with the county. But I got the call from that  
4 and (indiscernible) they call with the county. The  
5 county takes the call, and then dispatch here, right?

6 So, as the fire department, we want to be on  
7 scene as quick as we can, right? Second, second is  
8 county, what (indiscernible) they would call the fire  
9 department, and everybody (indiscernible). The issue  
10 is, there's always that time. And we've already  
11 said, we've already done our due diligence to making  
12 a five-minute (indiscernible) before it crosses our  
13 desk because they have to dispatch a -- Allenhurst  
14 PD, and Allenhurst PD has to dispatch us.

15 You guys also have to remember, we're a  
16 volunteer fire department. We're not a paid  
17 department. We do not live in the city; all right?  
18 So, now we've been dispatched. And I'll tell you,  
19 (indiscernible) which I think one member of this  
20 department lives in Allenhurst. So now, you dispatch  
21 us. It could take us a couple minutes from where  
22 we're coming from; right?

23 And I'll tell you right now, none of us  
24 (indiscernible) is very low. It's very low. Because  
25 by the time we got on scene, we're on the scene later

1 on, two minutes after that call was made. We had a  
2 truck out the door, out (indiscernible).

3 A VOICE: The ambulance was there.

4 MR. Powers: The ambulance was there  
5 too.

6 A VOICE: (Indiscernible) --

7 MR. Powers: Yeah, because we got  
8 dispatched wrong (indiscernible) --

9 A VOICE: (Indiscernible) --

10 MR. Powers: We got dispatched  
11 (indiscernible) nothing against dispatch. We got  
12 dispatched to the wrong location, and we got  
13 dispatched just for EMS. We were told after the  
14 second call that it was a (indiscernible) where we  
15 had gotten. So then, our dispatch had to redispach  
16 us for fire. So, the first (indiscernible) because  
17 it was dispatched as a motor vehicle accident, and  
18 that's our protocol.

19 A VOICE: (Indiscernible) --

20 MR. Powers: (Indiscernible) -- but  
21 just so you're -- again, nothing against our  
22 dispatchers at all. But I'm letting you know, we got  
23 -- our EMS (indiscernible), I see a smoke column  
24 (indiscernible). So, I -- within three minutes, the  
25 fire department was on scene. That call was

1 (indiscernible), there was nothing left of the car  
2 (indiscernible).

3 A VOICE: My other concern was that  
4 this wasn't a regular car --

5 A VOICE: (Indiscernible) --

6 (Whereupon, there is a cacophany of  
7 voices and the words/speakers are not discernible.)

8 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: I think I agree with  
9 you. I was there too, and I saw it. And you're  
10 right, they got it extinguished.

11 MR. Powers: (Indiscernible) within 20  
12 minutes --

13 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: -- came back with a  
14 vengeance. The next thing I'm going to say though,  
15 is --

16 (Whereupon, there are multiple people  
17 speaking at the same time.)

18 MR. Powers: (Indiscernible) so every  
19 time your car catches on fire and we use that  
20 blanket, and money talks, money talks,  
21 (indiscernible) the only reason I know this is  
22 because we just got (indiscernible) --

23 A VOICE: (Indiscernible) --

24 MR. Powers: (Indiscernible) that. The  
25 issue with cars and electric vehicles is, once the

1 car -- the battery is (indiscernible) into the car.  
2 Once that hazard is breached, there is 7,000 little  
3 ion batteries in this thing. Once that gets  
4 breached, (indiscernible) it creates a fire within  
5 itself; okay? So, (indiscernible) --

6 (Whereupon, there are multiple voices  
7 speaking at the same time.)

8 MR. Powers: -- (indiscernible) to shut  
9 down the line and reassess what we have, if the line  
10 was out, and that's just regular (indiscernible)  
11 facts, it's just anywhere and everywhere, you shut  
12 down the (indiscernible), and then you go over to the  
13 (indiscernible) --

14 A VOICE: I'd like to -- yeah, I'd like  
15 to bring this back to the topic of dispatch.

16 MR. Powers: Yeah. But dispatch, the  
17 reason why our ambulance was first on scene is  
18 because we were dispatched just (indiscernible).  
19 Then, we got redispached. And as you guys know, it  
20 was (indiscernible) a short amount of time later  
21 (indiscernible).

22 A VOICE: I just want to address, we  
23 talked about mistakes --

24 MR. Powers: (Indiscernible) --

25 A VOICE: -- everybody makes mistakes.

1 None of us have (indiscernible) callers who would  
2 constantly abuse (indiscernible) over and over again.  
3 It takes probably six months for a dispatcher to get  
4 to a point where they're comfortable with boom, boom,  
5 boom, I'm doing it just the right way every single  
6 time, as fast as I could, as fast as I possibly can.

7 When we're constantly training new dispatchers  
8 over and over and over again, sometimes they're not  
9 even getting to that six-month bar with a new  
10 dispatcher. But before six months, they're out of  
11 here, they're going somewhere else. And that's one  
12 of my problems with staffing --

13 A VOICE: And one of the things that I  
14 taught at the county, if I could just follow up on  
15 that, is the training program the dispatchers have to  
16 go through there. So, it's a very, very rigorous  
17 training program. They actually have a room that's  
18 set up for it. They're sitting there, and I believe  
19 it's six months that they go through the training  
20 program.

21 And after they're done with that, somebody  
22 sits with them for a couple of weeks just to make  
23 sure that training is set in, and they're very, very  
24 versed in what to do. And as it came up, you know,  
25 this incident that happened on Saturday night, again,

1     like I want to emphasize, this wasn't the county that  
2     made the mistake. And again, we're not all perfect.  
3     It was our dispatch that made the mistake.

4                 MR. SCHNEIDER: And I really -- I don't  
5     want to jump in. But as Mike said, I mean, I tell my  
6     recruits, my guys that are coming in to this  
7     (indiscernible) county. I said, and I always tell  
8     them, we're a very small town. We don't have a lot  
9     of calls. But in Allenhurst, when there's a call,  
10    from a scale from a 1 to 9, usually you're at an 8, 9  
11    or a 10. Because when things go wrong in this town,  
12    there's nothing minute. It's something major.

13                So, when you have a dispatcher that you keep  
14    training and you don't (indiscernible), they just  
15    make -- and like you said, in any municipality,  
16    you're cycling through these people that are  
17    (indiscernible) dispatchers. If I have six months, I  
18    call him for a structure fire and he's never  
19    dispatched a structure fire, he's going to  
20    (indiscernible) -- he's going to make mistakes; you  
21    know? So, you can't blame (indiscernible) people for  
22    just that.

23                The county has (indiscernible) that has been  
24    in the field for at least five months with somebody  
25    next to them, (indiscernible). So, it goes -- the

1 quality of that is, they have someone to ask if  
2 they're doing something right.

3 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Chief, can you touch  
4 upon one of the things -- so, can you explain for,  
5 let's just say, fire and first aid are unavailable,  
6 we have different agreements with going to a backup  
7 (indiscernible) -- about how the county would follow  
8 (indiscernible) --

9 MR. Powers: Yes. So, since we're a  
10 volunteer fire department, and again, just like  
11 dispatch, volunteers voluntarily (indiscernible). We  
12 all know; all right? So, saying we can't -- we don't  
13 have enough guys to get on the truck, because in our  
14 department, we have a three man minimum. That's just  
15 like in New York City. New York City engines, three  
16 man minimum, a driver and two guys are the  
17 passengers. And basically everywhere in the nation;  
18 right?

19 So, if we can't get (indiscernible), we have  
20 two, we don't call (indiscernible). I have a  
21 (indiscernible) which the county (indiscernible) has.  
22 I have to give that to the county every year. It  
23 recycles every year. If there's any changes, I could  
24 make a change tomorrow. The change I made, I have to  
25 go to the county, give them that change, and they



1 have to approve that change before it's enacted.

2 So, it's not like they're just calling anybody  
3 they want. They're going by the order of what I  
4 want. So, say I don't have a crew; right? I go to  
5 the county. I don't have a crew. I need mutual aid.  
6 Our mutual aid (indiscernible) is a fire engine, and  
7 I have (indiscernible) fire (indiscernible). I have  
8 (indiscernible) team, and God forbid we have any  
9 (indiscernible) -- there's a house fire and you're  
10 stuck in your house, Asbury Park automatically gets  
11 called in here because Asbury Park's here 24/7. They  
12 have recently (indiscernible), and they're here  
13 within a minute.

14 So, that was my plan, because I'm trying to  
15 (indiscernible) you guys, so your life can be saved.  
16 So, that's the plan. If we go to the county, the  
17 county will then, I would say (indiscernible), and  
18 every dispatcher in the county knows what the box is.  
19 All they do is go to the street, boom, and every town  
20 that I just said gets called instantly because it's  
21 computerized; right?

22 Right now, since we don't have that  
23 infrastructure, if I would have a fire right now, I  
24 would have to say Allenhurst called, do it from my  
25 engine, because (indiscernible) local. And then, if

1 it gets escalated, I don't even use our frequency  
2 anymore because in my mind, I already know I have a  
3 large-scale threat. I'm going to have multiple  
4 engines in here. I go to them and say, county, hit  
5 my box, I'm requiring fire -- fire (indiscernible).

6 They have multiple radio bands to get  
7 (indiscernible). So, every fire department, say it  
8 has another fire at the same time, they just go right  
9 to the next channel. The channel that I'm on, that's  
10 my channel, to see (indiscernible). And to every  
11 single (indiscernible) -- to the front door.

12 God forbid if we have someone that needs to be  
13 rescued, and they do car checks for us as well. So,  
14 they'll say, say I forget (indiscernible), I have a  
15 lot going on, they'll say, hey, Chief, how you doing?  
16 What do you got going? Do you need anything else?  
17 So basically, they're my eyes in the sky.

18 MR. CUMISKEY: So Mike, would it be  
19 fair to say one, not only quick response time, but as  
20 far as the fire department immediately has a concern,  
21 dealing with county is your recommendation?

22 MR. Powers: Absolutely. Absolutely,  
23 because the county also gives us that system, which  
24 will be in our truck; right? So (indiscernible), if  
25 you call and say, right, my house is on fire, right

1       --

2                   MR. CUMISKEY:  Heaven forbid.

3                   MR. Powers:  Everything that you say to  
4       them on the phone gets transferred to the operator,  
5       and then it gets typed in where now our trucks will  
6       be equipped with computer screens in the truck.  So,  
7       the minute you say something on that phone line, it's  
8       directly transferred to us in the trucks.  So, you  
9       can say, I was on the second floor in my bedroom, and  
10      I'm on the east side.  Whatever you just said gets  
11      put into that computer screen right in the engine  
12      with the crew.  So, when we go on -- to your house,  
13      we know exactly where you are.  And right now, we  
14      don't have that.

15                  MR. CUMISKEY:  Right now, we've got  
16      stickers with the firefighter, that tells you on  
17      which window people --

18                  MR. Powers:  And believe it or not --

19                  MR. CUMISKEY:  -- their children --

20                  MR. Powers:  Believe it or not, that's  
21      illegal.

22                  MR. CUMISKEY:  It it really?  All  
23      right.

24                  MR. Powers:  Yeah, it's illegal.

25                  MR. CUMISKEY:  (Indiscernible) --

1                   (Whereupon, multiple voices are  
2 speaking over one another.)

3                   MR. Powers: So, I -- the mayor and the  
4 commissioners asked me to jot some things down for  
5 you guys, just for the EMS and fire side. Just to  
6 see -- tell you guys what we are dealing with on a  
7 day-to-day basis here; okay? So, this -- to the  
8 Allenhurst mayor, commissioners and residents, I'm  
9 Michael Powers from the Allenhurst Fire Department,  
10 Fire Chief.

11                  I'm here tonight to join the important  
12 discussion regarding ongoing radio communication  
13 issues with the borough. Radio communications are of  
14 the safety of our first responders, and to the  
15 general public, and to the property we're sworn to  
16 protect.

17                  As the chief of the fire department, I first  
18 felt the growing issues firsthand on July of 2022.  
19 We responded to a confirmed structure fire in a  
20 residence at the corner of Ocean Avenue and Corlies  
21 Avenue. I was the first arriving officer on scene,  
22 and immediately conducted a scene size up, which that  
23 means, I go do a 360 of your house, I go see if  
24 there's any fire spillage already happening, and then  
25 I'd be able to let the crew coming in know what's

1     happening.  So, it's just my eyes, what my eyes are  
2     seeing before we get there.

3             This is an effort to quickly investigate the  
4     situation in order to determine what additional  
5     resources we may need before conducting search,  
6     recovery and extinguishment efforts.  I noticed smoke  
7     pushing from the roof of the residence, indicating an  
8     active fire.

9             I quickly notified our dispatch to send mutual  
10    aid from surrounding towns to assist.  My main reason  
11    for making this initial decision was that the call  
12    was in the middle of the afternoon, and the  
13    temperatures outside were 90 and up, in the upper  
14    90s.  As you know, we're -- you work in your house  
15    and your front lawn, it's 90 degrees, how much longer  
16    do you actually work?

17            And we're aware about how (indiscernible), so  
18    you get very exhausted and very tired during  
19    (indiscernible).  Let's see.  This afternoon -- this  
20    makes for an even more dangerous situations for our  
21    firefighters, who can overcome -- be overcome by  
22    exhaustion and dehydration.  My absolute number one  
23    priority on a call like this is the safety of my  
24    members and officers on scene, as well as the  
25    residents of our town.

1           As we started the investigation further, we  
2       were able to confirm a fire in the attic of the  
3       residence. I sent a crew of five members to begin  
4       extinguishment. At the five-minute mark, which we  
5       call a call check, which I call in and I check on my  
6       men that -- to make sure they're okay. At the  
7       five-minute mark, I conducted what we call an  
8       accountability check via the radio system.

9           This is to check not only on the status of the  
10      extinguishment efforts, but also the safety and  
11      wellbeing of the crew. After transmitting -- after  
12      transmitting the request for accountability check, I  
13      received no response back. This is a fire chief's  
14      worst nightmare. Are my members okay? What are my  
15      next actions? A million thoughts rush through your  
16      head, a commanding officer's head.

17          Was I able to confirm by -- I was able to  
18      confirm by direct verbal communication. So  
19      literally, I grabbed the firemen, I said you need to  
20      go inside and you need to yell if they can hear you,  
21      because I need to know if they're still well, they're  
22      -- their (indiscernible) is still (indiscernible),  
23      which God forbid they got, everybody was all right.

24          Face-to-face, by relaying messages through  
25      multiple members throughout the scene. The attic

1 crew was in fact transmitting back to me on the  
2 radio. However, our radio system was failing and I  
3 was not receiving their responses. Had their  
4 responses been a mayday or asking for help, we could  
5 have been in a very bad situation.

6       Upon learning of the radio issue, I quickly  
7 transmitted the message to the Monmouth County radio  
8 room, requesting to use one of their county-level  
9 frequencies for the duration of this fire. They  
10 provided one of their channels to conduct the  
11 remaining extinguishment of this fire.

12       At the conclusion of this incident, and  
13 knowing all my members, residents and officers were  
14 accounted for, I contacted Mayor Dave, Allenhurst  
15 Mayor Dave McLaughlin, to share this information with  
16 him. The mayor was concerned with this news and  
17 quickly started the process to review our options  
18 moving forward. Since that event, we've witnessed  
19 our communication and our radio failing and  
20 underperforming multiple times, each presenting  
21 another dangerous situation for our members and  
22 residents.

23       This growing issue is putting an increased  
24 weight on the risk our members continue -- increased  
25 weight on their (indiscernible) our members continue

1 to take -- take the time from their families, are  
2 volunteering their time to serve this town. We've  
3 reached a point where we must have -- find a  
4 definitive solution in order to enable our members,  
5 commanding officers, et cetera to communicate with  
6 each other during our emergency operations. Radio  
7 communication is the most vital tool that we have in  
8 the fire service. It's our lifeline.

9 I've constructed a list of other calls of  
10 significance since the last August where we've seen  
11 our communication issues. This is not an extensive  
12 list. However, just an example of the issues we see  
13 each day. In some of these situations, we've needed  
14 to use the Monmouth County Fire Channels to conduct  
15 our operations. So, I just jotted down a couple  
16 dates for you guys. I didn't put addresses. I just  
17 put street names.

18 A VOICE: You know, I don't think you  
19 have to go through each one. But I think the point  
20 you're saying is, it's definitely the right move to  
21 go to the county.

22 MR. POWERS: Yes, because the calls  
23 that I just wanted to say, was either smoke in a  
24 basement, water in a -- water in (indiscernible), car  
25 in a lake, CO detectors going off, water in a



1 basement, (indiscernible) as a commanding officer I  
2 know that's high risk call.

3 It's a high risk call. The reason why it's a  
4 high-risk call, it's a confined space. In your  
5 basement, you go down in your basement right now in  
6 the dark, right, and you have no communication, no  
7 light, anything. And you know the only way out of  
8 that house is the way you came in, because when  
9 you're in the basement, that's what the reality is.

10 So, if one of my guys goes down there, and I  
11 -- and there's a fire, and I don't know about it and  
12 it gets trapped, what's that -- what's that do to me,  
13 you know? And I -- and I know that we're having  
14 issues. So, that's why I brought this up to the  
15 mayor as fast as I could, to tell him what this issue  
16 is, because for my guys, these guys are my family.  
17 So, imagine you -- and I know you do, lose a family  
18 member, and it's something that could be fix. You  
19 know what I'm saying? Like, that -- that's not a  
20 good weight on my shoulders whenever I go to a call  
21 because at the end of the day, my guys now are  
22 saying, is my radio going to work? Is this radio  
23 going to work?

24 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: And I think one of the  
25 things too, that I just want to mention is, we did

1     have the -- the radio company come in --

2                   MR. POWERS:   Yes.

3                   MR. MCLAUGHLIN:  And we had an interim

4     fix for now.  But again, it's just an interim fix.

5     But I think (indiscernible), you could actually use

6     the walkie-talkie as a walkie-talkie (indiscernible)

7     --

8                   MR. POWERS:   Yes.

9                   MR. MCLAUGHLIN:  But again, that's just  
10    a temporary fix.

11                   MR. POWERS:   But on the fire side, Mr.  
12    Mayor, that doesn't really work for us because if I  
13    have a fire in town, and we all know, we have big,  
14    beautiful houses here, right, a lot of square feet,  
15    do you think they'd be more than two fire lines that  
16    will take that out?  Absolutely not, because most of  
17    your houses are (indiscernible) construction.  So,  
18    you don't have fire stops in between the floors of  
19    your house.

20                   But if you have a fire in the basement, it's  
21    going to go straight up the side of the house, right  
22    to the roof.  I can tell you that right now.  So,  
23    that operation, I'm going to be calling multiple,  
24    multiple companies all around the county.  They can't  
25    operate off our system.  It's just -- it's going to

1     overwhelm the system that's underperforming already.

2             So, me calling another town, and I -- and I'm  
3     not being rude to you, Mike, but I go straight to  
4     county anyway because they can handle that call line.  
5     They can handle those multiple trucks that are coming  
6     into this town, and they have real-time data. As  
7     they're going in, that stuff that we're seeing on our  
8     own computer system, if we do go, that we see on that  
9     screen, goes right to them. So, when they're coming  
10    in, they already know what's going on. They already  
11    know who's --

12            MR. CUMISKEY: And Chief, if you -- you  
13    have multiple agencies coming in, they're all getting  
14    it as well; correct?

15            MR. POWERS: Real-time. Real-time.

16            MR. CUMISKEY: All of them are getting  
17    on their computer screens what they're walking into?

18            MR. POWERS: And they get everything  
19    that I say recorded. So, their dispatcher will say,  
20    I have the firefighter track. So, the next coming in  
21    knows exactly what's going on.

22            A VOICE: Questions or comments?

23            MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Yeah, does anybody  
24    have any questions or comments for either the  
25    Monmouth County undersheriffs, the chief or the chief

1       -- Chief Powers, either chief?

2                   MR. SCHNEIDER: I'm sorry. I want to  
3 bring up two more points that I didn't bring up the  
4 first time. Number one, you've all known me for a  
5 long time. I've spent my entire career here; all  
6 right? I care about this town. I really do. That's  
7 why I stayed here; all right? One of the things that  
8 the mayor and I have talked about this is, that we  
9 want to maintain that small-town feel with the police  
10 department.

11               We will never be a big-town police department;  
12 all right? So, the things that we're all used to,  
13 the house checks, the keys being at headquarters, all  
14 that kind of stuff, we're going to maintain that.  
15 We're not going to get rid of that. The other part  
16 that I want to discuss is, to even change this  
17 system, to rebuild the infrastructure, we're looking  
18 at a 12-to-18-month process.

19               The guy who would provide the equipment to us  
20 told us the last job that he did, he didn't even have  
21 the equipment until a year down the road. Picture  
22 this, 12 to 18 months more of -- of firemen being in  
23 situations where they can't talk to each other, or  
24 officers being on a motor vehicle stop where they  
25 can't reach headquarters, I can't go to sleep like

1     that.

2                   MR. CUMISKEY: Chief, more importantly,  
3     after you did that, how soon until that's out of  
4     date?

5                   MR. SCHNEIDER: All right. And that's  
6     what we were saying before about the updates. The  
7     carrier is constantly doing updates. We would not be  
8     able to keep up with that in the local company as  
9     they are on the county level.

10                  MR. MEEHAN: You know, does the other  
11     undersheriff want to make a comment or say anything  
12     tonight?

13                  MR. LAWSON: I'm just -- I did his job  
14     already.

15                  MR. MEEHAN: And I'm not doing it  
16     again.

17                  MR. LAWSON: (Indiscernible) -- very  
18     good. But I just thought about the technology side  
19     of things, and -- and listen, the board of  
20     commissioners, you know, they huge invest in the  
21     public safety, you know, to the sheriff. And that's  
22     their big commitment, and -- and I think, you know,  
23     we've put a good infrastructure together to support  
24     the services of the county, police, fire, EMS, our  
25     emergency management partners.

1           And, you know, I wish you would all take  
2    advantage of the technology that's offered to you --  
3    your professionals, and your local services for your  
4    town. You know, the system will save you time. You  
5    can spend more time with your families, you know,  
6    when they're not answering (indiscernible). We've  
7    got a good system. Is it perfect? By no means is it  
8    perfect, but it's an evolving process.

9           You know, to the -- to the conversations about  
10   (indiscernible), so, say -- say there's a scenario,  
11   right, so that (indiscernible), you know,  
12   (indiscernible) on the desk, they're probably  
13   20-something years old trying to answer multiple  
14   phone calls from one car accident and trying to  
15   listen to the radios, trying to listen to the fire  
16   chief, trying to answer EMS, trying to get other  
17   agencies there. It's too much for one person.

18          What we offer is the ability, you know, on any  
19   given shift, it's 35 operators, up to 40 operators at  
20   any given time, six, eight call-takers. That's all  
21   they do, answer the phones. Six EMS and fire  
22   dispatchers, and then the rest are police and -- and  
23   other areas of business. So, you've (indiscernible)  
24   having incidents. You can put eight people  
25   (indiscernible), and you can put (indiscernible).

1           So, it sounds like you guys are in a little  
2   bit of trouble down here, from the infrastructure,  
3   and it's no fault of yours. It's the times we're in.  
4   And, you know, we're just hoping that we can help you  
5   out moving forward.

6           MR. CUMISKEY: And I'm glad the sheriff  
7   mentioned the infrastructure. But the county has its  
8   infrastructure replaced around us. It was -- it was  
9   never (indiscernible). So, for us, if we were making  
10  the choice to go to the county, we would up and  
11  running with the county in a matter of weeks because  
12  the infrastructure is already there. We're not going  
13  to be building it.

14          So, all it would be would be a question of,  
15  how do you (indiscernible) the radios to be  
16  compatible with the infrastructure that is already in  
17  place? We don't have to do any of that. And I just  
18  wanted to ask the undersheriffs, you have radios that  
19  we can use until we purchase our own, that -- so you  
20  can, to the fire chief's point, get us up and running  
21  quickly. Perfect.

22          MR. MCLAUGHLIN: The other thing I  
23  wanted to mention, when I was there with the chief a  
24  couple of months ago when we took the tour, one of  
25  the things we asked about was, what would be done in

1 the case of, like, power failures or (indiscernible)  
2 would come up.

3 And when Sheriff Gold took us on a tour, he  
4 showed me the backups that they have. They've got  
5 full buildings filled with generators. At the flick  
6 of a switch, it's seamless. It goes right over to  
7 backup systems. Transmission towers they've got set  
8 up, we actually went into one of the transmission  
9 towers. He showed us all of the backup equipment  
10 that's in there. It's like NASA. I'm going to be  
11 (indiscernible), it's unbelievable when you go and  
12 see it. So, it's -- there's no way a town could ever  
13 possibly compete with what they offer.

14 MR. CUMISKEY: Does anyone else have  
15 any questions, comments?

16 (Whereupon, there are public comments  
17 and discussion.)

18 MR. CUMISKEY: Chief, last point. If  
19 we move forward with this, we will have two systems  
20 running in parallel, right, to make sure that we --

21 MR. SCHNEIDER: Correct.

22 MR. CUMISKEY: -- have no issues, if  
23 you want to just touch on that?

24 MR. SCHNEIDER: So, in my 27 years  
25 here, we've never been fully compatible with the



1 towns around us. Like the commissioner was saying,  
2 we were always here, everybody else was always here.  
3 And even when we moved up, they've moved up, we  
4 cannot hear that what we were talking about before,  
5 that inter-cooperatability is huge because we need to  
6 know what's starting in Long Branch and coming  
7 towards Asbury, and coming towards --

8 MR. CUMISKEY: But my point too is that  
9 you will have our dispatchers still here, still  
10 working while we're getting the new system and  
11 running to make sure everything works? We wouldn't  
12 just cut over with a --

13 MR. SCHNEIDER: Absolutely right.

14 A VOICE: (Indiscernible) --

15 MR. SCHNEIDER: So, the sheriff has --  
16 what he's done in the past, he's told us it will  
17 continue. For any town that he's picked up or that  
18 has gone to them, he's given them ten portable radios  
19 for their first aid squad. That eliminates ten  
20 radios that their first aid squad doesn't need to  
21 buy. He's now started where he will give ten  
22 portable radios to the fire department. That's ten  
23 less portables that the fire department needed to  
24 buy.

25 So, that in and of itself is huge. And it's

1 not even coming out of our county tax money because  
2 he's using grant money to get all of this equipment,  
3 and he can because that's how it's based in their  
4 system of (indiscernible).

5 A VOICE: Also, when we were there and  
6 speaking to the county sheriff, if our radios go  
7 down, he has backups for us. So, we just go down,  
8 pick it up and we're good.

9 MR. SCHNEIDER: I've spoken to the  
10 board before, on two prior instances where we've  
11 thought about changing to the -- our radios. And the  
12 prior two times, I was against it because there were  
13 things that I just think were not in line. Those  
14 things are in line now. The problems that I've had  
15 in the past with this are no longer (indiscernible).  
16 So, that's why I'm (indiscernible) -- that this is  
17 the type of (indiscernible), because it's never been  
18 as good as it is right now.

19 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Thank you, chief.  
20 Anybody else?

21 MR. CUMISKEY: I have one more thing  
22 that I wanted to say. I just want to throw one thing  
23 out there. There was a notice that came out from the  
24 Allenhurst Taxpayers' Association about a hedge  
25 ordinance that we were looking to introduce. We have

1     adjourned that ordinance. I want to stress the  
2     reason that we were looking to do a hedge ordinance  
3     was, it was prospective in nature. So, anyone who  
4     has preexisting nonconforming hedges, no one's going  
5     to ask you to cut them down.

6             Secondly, the only reason we were looking to  
7     do it was to try and protect people's views of oceans  
8     where they had them. I personally do not care. I do  
9     not have a view of the ocean. So, I was trying to  
10    help my neighbors. But if the ATA is adamant that  
11    they do not want this, I do not care. But keep in  
12    mind, the entire point of this was those of you who  
13    do have a view from your porches or your second floor  
14    may lose it, at which point then I'm not going to  
15    care. Thank you.

16            MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Anybody else have any  
17    questions? All right, thanks, everybody. We're  
18    going to go into (indiscernible) session. Thanks,  
19    everybody, for coming.

20            (Whereupon, the recording is paused.)

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## 1 CERTIFICATE

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3 I, KALLIE M. PRERA, Transcriptionist, hereby  
4 certify the foregoing to be the truest and most  
5 closely verbatim record able to have been  
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19 Dated: September 5, 2023

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