ST. JOHNS AIRPORT AUTHORITY

Budget Meeting

held in The Conference Center, Meeting Room B

4730 Casa Cola Way

St. Augustine, Florida

on Monday, September 11, 2023

from 5:01 p.m. to 5:47 p.m.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

ROBERT OLSON
DENNIS CLARKE, Chairman
JENNIFER LIOTTA

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

MICHELLE CASH-CHAPMAN REBA LUDLOW, Treasurer

ALSO PRESENT:

CHARLES DOUGLAS, ESQUIRE, Douglas Law Firm, 100 Southpark Boulevard, Suite 414, St. Augustine, Florida, 32086, General Counsel for Airport Authority.

CHAD S. ROBERTS, ESQUIRE, The Roberts Firm, PLLC, 1633 Challen Avenue, Jacksonville, Florida, 32205, Aviation Counsel for Airport Authority.

JAIME TOPP, Interim Executive Director.

JANET M. BEASON, FPR-C, RMR, CRR St. Augustine Court Reporters 17 Pacific Street, Suite B St. Augustine, FL 32084 (904) 825-0570

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1	PROCEEDINGS
2	CHAIRMAN CLARKE: All right. It's 5:01 and I
3	will call the budget meeting to order.
4	MR. OLSON: It's a hearing, right?
5	CHAIRMAN CLARKE: Mr. Douglas, is this a
6	MR. OLSON: Is this a hearing or a meeting?
7	CHAIRMAN CLARKE: Budget meeting or a hearing?
8	MR. DOUGLAS: The tentative budget hearing
9	meeting.
10	CHAIRMAN CLARKE: This is a tentative budget
11	meeting hearing. The budget will be this is
12	preliminary to the the budget hearing or the
13	final adoption of the budget one week from today at
14	the it must be at 5:01? Is that also at 5:01?
15	MR. DOUGLAS: Yes, sir.
16	CHAIRMAN CLARKE: 5:01, okay.
17	MR. TOPP: Mr. Chairman?
18	CHAIRMAN CLARKE: Yes.
19	MR. TOPP: We'll be putting out notices.
20	We'll be following the same format that was
21	followed last year. Dana was and Chloe worked
22	really hard to find
23	CHAIRMAN CLARKE: Okay.
24	MR. TOPP: all of the information. We've
25	sent it to both counsel and they've given us

1	direction on what to put in the notices and when.
2	And doing it like we're doing right now is exactly
3	what'll happen. And then once we finish today, I
4	will put out the notice of what happened today.
5	CHAIRMAN CLARKE: Okay. Would you care to
6	discuss the budget?
7	MR. TOPP: I'll let you do it, sir. You're
8	you're the expert. I just had input on it.
9	CHAIRMAN CLARKE: All right. The the
10	reason I had to jump into the budget is because of
11	some issues with the staff turnover. They left a
12	preliminary budget for us to complete. So having
13	that kind of background, I was able to you know,
14	to pick up and try to fill in.
15	For the most part, the revenue, the projected
16	revenue, it was provided by the previous
17	administration or previous staff. The expenses
18	were there's some greater detail worksheets
19	under the personnel benefits. The professional
20	services, there's a little bit more detail that's
21	unavailable right here, but if anybody's
22	interested, I can provide that to you.
23	So, in the the largest variable in the
24	coming budget is obviously the state grant revenue.

And that state grant revenue is driven by the

- capital plan, you know, at \$4.1 million as opposed 1 2 to \$188,000 in the fiscal year 2023 which we're 3 currently in. So, with that revenue -- additional revenue, the expenses do not change dramatically, 5 but it results in a net income of 2,637,000 and 6 some dollars.
 - And this -- let me make clear and make sure that everyone knows that we -- several meetings ago, we adopted a zero ad valorem rate for the taxpayers.
- We are a taxing authority, but the taxpayers 11 12 are not -- will not be assessed any -- have to bear 13 any assessment for any of the expenses at the 14 airport. The airport is self-sustaining in that respect. And so, I know, Mr. Olson, you had a lot 15 16 of comments and concerns.
- 17 MS. LIOTTA: Can I --

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- 18 CHAIRMAN CLARKE: Please address them.
- 19 MS. LIOTTA: Oh, can I -- I have one small 20 question.
- 21 I noticed that the across -- and apologies if 22 this was asked and answered many meetings ago. A 23 lot of these line items have like small increases. 24 Is -- was that like a -- just a escalator for CPI used behind those?

- 1 CHAIRMAN CLARKE: In some cases, yes.
- MS. LIOTTA: Okay.
- 3 CHAIRMAN CLARKE: In some cases, it was a
- 4 specific, you know, calculation.
- 5 MS. LIOTTA: Okay. Thank you. That was my
- 6 guess, but I just wanted to confirm.
- 7 CHAIRMAN CLARKE: You know, ideally, there
- 8 would be a narrative and -- and a worksheet for
- 9 every line item, but I unfortunately was not able
- 10 to get to that level of detail in the time that I
- 11 had to put this together, so...
- MS. LIOTTA: That was all I had.
- 13 CHAIRMAN CLARKE: Okay. Thank you.
- MR. OLSON: Okay. I do have -- Mr. Chairman,
- I looked at this budget and I -- I -- I looked at
- some budgets from other airports to just make sure
- that I was reading this correctly.
- 18 The first part of the budget -- the budget is
- 19 organized, for anyone that doesn't have this in
- 20 front of them, there's an operating budget which is
- operating income against operating expenses. And
- then there's a capital development budget that has
- the sources of funds to do our capital development
- 24 program for the coming year, which is -- includes
- the all-important hangar complex as well as other

activities. And that capital development budget includes the federal and state grants that are coming to the Authority to support these projects plus the Authority's required match that are different from the various grants and projects.

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The concern I have, Mr. Chairman, is that the federal and state grants which total \$5.7 million are included in the operating budget as operating income.

They really can't, to my understanding, be part of the operating income because they're dedicated to the capital development work. They are not income to our authority, they are not part of our operating income, and therefore can't be used.

And -- and if that simple conclusion that I made, I hope -- I mean, I'm hoping I'm wrong, but I don't think so, is -- is recalculated, we end up with an operating loss of \$1.152 million for the current year. And that loss is before -- there is an operating expense that should be listed in the operating budget. The one thing related to a capital budget is how much funds the Authority has to allocate to -- to match the grants. And the grant -- Authority-required grant match is \$2.566

- 1 million.
- 2 So, if you take the operating loss at
- 3 \$1.152 million and add the Authority's required
- 4 grant match, we actually have a -- to the operating
- 5 loss, we actually have a net requirement of -- or
- 6 deficit of \$3.7 million.
- 7 We started the year with approximately 4.9 --
- 8 I mean, our accounting firm lists us as having
- 9 approximately \$5 million in capital reserve at the
- 10 end of the last fiscal year.
- If we subtract that, the hit that we're -- or
- the expense that we're facing or the gap we're
- facing to fill this year, we end up with only
- \$1.2 million in our -- remaining in our capital
- reserve at the end of the coming year if we approve
- this budget.
- 17 My concern is that this airport that has no
- 18 parent government -- unlike Boca, unlike Naples,
- 19 unlike any other airport in Florida that I can
- 20 think of -- we don't have a parent government to go
- 21 to on urgent emergency-need basis.
- The next thing that concerns me about the
- budget is that in the coming year, we're facing
- 24 \$7.3 million in Authority funding in order to
- fulfill the requirements there. And that includes

1	sewer and water main extensions for land that we're
2	actually receiving and evaluating proposals for
3	right now.

2.2

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So those are my concerns about the budget. If I am wrong, I'll be delighted to leave this meeting knowing that we're in good financial shape, but I'm concerned that we're not.

CHAIRMAN CLARKE: You -- you -- Mr. Olson, you bring up some very good and keen observations. You know, let me just -- let me just address them.

Federal and state grants, we are one single entity. That is, the Authority is a -- you know, not divided into an operating entity and a capital entity. It's a single entity.

Federal and state grants are almost

100 percent converted into assets. And assets of course either generate income or they don't generate income in case of runways and so on, but it nevertheless is revenue. And so -- and cash is -- or revenue is fungible and it goes into our -- into our financial statements. And if -- there's another statement. We'll -- I'll bring one -- we'll bring one for the next meeting as of the close of business. It's called a cash flow statement. And it clearly demonstrates the

Т	conversion of cash into assets.
2	And I think that's where, you know, there
3	it leads to confusion when you're just looking at
4	operating and maintenance. Indeed, we do have an
5	operating deficit when you include depreciation.
6	Keep in mind, depreciation is driven
7	MR. OLSON: I
8	CHAIRMAN CLARKE: by the capital assets.
9	MR. OLSON: I discounted the add-on and the
L 0	deletion of depreciation because that's the way
11	it's handled and it was that was handled
12	properly here. So I
13	CHAIRMAN CLARKE: Well, it's still being
L 4	handled properly. This budget doesn't do
L 5	anything it doesn't do anything different.
L 6	If you if you notice, the the numbers in
L7	the left column, the left-most column are are
L 8	either revenue numbers or operating expense
L 9	numbers.
20	MR. OLSON: What do you on your in your
21	calculations, what do you conclude would be
22	under this budget as presented, what would be our
23	capital reserve at the end of this budget year if
2 4	we adopt the proposed budget?

CHAIRMAN CLARKE: Close to \$5 million. It's

1 at the bottom --2 MR. OLSON: I completely disagree with that. CHAIRMAN CLARKE: Well, I --3 4 MR. OLSON: Capital reserve isn't rolled --5 CHAIRMAN CLARKE: It's a -- capital reserve, 6 we're not -- we are -- we have a net position. We 7 haven't -- we have not formally put anything in so-called capital reserve. 9 I mean, we have -- to the extent that we have 10 cash left over, we contribute and you can see the tie between the -- on the budget, at the bottom 11 12 line it says "less capital expenditures." 13 We have net income of \$2 million -- projected 14 net income \$2,637,000. Of that, \$2,566,000 is 15 going to be allocated to -- to capital 16 expenditures. When you add back depreciation to 17 that number, that \$4.5 million, you -- you do the 18 math, those numbers add up to the total expense or 19 the --20 MR. OLSON: Well, I don't see a calculation --21 CHAIRMAN CLARKE: -- 4.5 --22 MR. OLSON: You didn't do a calculation, but I 23 would like to -- capital reserve, what is our 24 capital reserve at the end of -- if we adopt this 25 operating budget and the capital development

budget, what would you say our capital reserve is? 1 2. CHAIRMAN CLARKE: It's going to be about four 3 and a half million dollars. 4 MR. OLSON: That's --5 MS. LIOTTA: Can I -- I think the --6 CHAIRMAN CLARKE: The cash -- it's cash. MS. LIOTTA: It sounds to me like there's --7 8 we may be inadvertently going around in some 9 circles. 10 CHAIRMAN CLARKE: Uh-huh. MS. LIOTTA: My interpretation of the 11 12 conversation here is it's lay -- maybe we're using 1.3 the wrong labels. 14 My concern looking at this is cash. Whether 15 you call it capital reserve or you call it 16 something else, and I'm not a finance expert by any 17 means, but I think I share Mr. Olson's concern of 18 how much cash do we have? 19 I know this year has not been a typical year 20 for expenditures at the airport. So going into 21 next year, looking at the preliminary capital 2.2 budget, we saw some very big tickets in there of 23 sewer main and water main extensions, for example. 2.4 It -- I don't believe that we literally have

that cash available right now. So it's -- I would

think that the only way to do all of these 1 2 things --3 CHAIRMAN CLARKE: Let me see. 4 MS. LIOTTA: -- we have to find some way to 5 fund that. 6 CHAIRMAN CLARKE: Our goal --MS. LIOTTA: Or even if we did have all of 7 8 the -- just strictly speaking cash, not assets, not 9 anything else, but just cash obligations here, it does seem like 2024 would be a very big year coming 10 up right after a year that's been larger than 11 12 typical already. So --1.3 CHAIRMAN CLARKE: Does anyone have our -- our 14 last budget or balance sheet, do you recall, Mr. Topp? It was -- we had cash of about five and 15 a half million dollars. 16 17 MR. TOPP: It may be in that --18 MR. OLSON: The audit -- the best source of 19 that is the audit that was presented last, what, 20 March or April that showed we had \$5.1 million in 21 cash and -- and cash equivalents. 2.2 CHAIRMAN CLARKE: And we still do. MS. LIOTTA: But if we spend 4.4 of it just on 23 24 the one project next year, we won't -- we will no

longer have that cash.

CHAIRMAN CLARKE: But we have \$5.7 million in 1 2 grant revenue coming in. 3 MR. OLSON: First off, we had the audit 4 certified that we had \$5.1 million in cash and cash 5 equivalents at the end of the last fiscal year, not at the end of this fiscal year. We're also having 7 a negative coming out of this fiscal year. CHAIRMAN CLARKE: We have -- well, I'm talking about last month we had -- we still had over five 9 and a half million dollars cash available. 10 MR. OLSON: Well then, we must have some 11 12 obligations we have not funded. 13 CHAIRMAN CLARKE: No, we don't. MR. OLSON: Well, I don't see that in our 14 books. 15 16 MS. LIOTTA: Well --17 CHAIRMAN CLARKE: I don't know how you're 18 looking at it. You --19 MS. LIOTTA: Well, I think -- I think part of 20 this concern is the -- all right. 21 I don't have a massive concern about approving 2.2 a budget that might have some big tickets in it, 23 with the understanding that there's a lot of work 2.4 to be done to approve those projects, and this -- I

don't view this budget as saying that we have to go

- 1 spend that money.
- I would still think that there would be work
- 3 to do with staff and potentially issuing bonds
- 4 and -- this matter's going to come before the
- 5 Authority again before any amounts of this size or
- a lot of the items on the preliminary capital
- 7 budget get done.
- I mean, this is, in my mind, not an approval
- 9 of those projects per se. It is an indication to
- me that the Authority wants to look -- to at least
- look at them and it's on the roadmap, but there's
- 12 all sorts of reasons why things that are in a
- 13 budget don't -- eventually don't get done or end up
- having to go in another year.
- 15 CHAIRMAN CLARKE: Yeah, and I think the -- I
- think I hear what is missing out of here and, you
- 17 know, my fault for not including it, is starting,
- 18 as Mr. Olson has suggested, with last year's cash
- balance showing what the cash coming in and doing
- 20 an abbreviated, a highly abbreviated cash flow
- 21 statement. And I'll -- I'll prepare that and --
- 22 and circulate it.
- But I think you'll see that that's -- we
- 24 don't -- our budget process does not include
- 25 projecting a balance sheet. It just -- we're not

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1
          that sophisticated. There are programs that do
 2
          that, but we don't.
 3
               So I think that's what you're -- you may not
          be able to perceive in this, because we do have, as
 5
          of the end of July, something like $5.3 million
          cash. We had -- what was the investment we had?
 7
          We talked to the investment adviser the other day.
 8
          I speaking to --
 9
               MR. TOPP: Three point something --
               CHAIRMAN CLARKE: Three point some million
10
          just in investments.
11
12
               MR. OLSON: Would you say -- are you saying
1.3
          that we're having a year with a net cash result
          from the -- from the current year? Because we're
14
15
          not.
16
               CHAIRMAN CLARKE: We basically do every year.
17
          When you add back depreciation, which is a noncash
18
          expense --
19
               MR. OLSON: Depreciation is noncash and
20
          federal and state grants are not cash, they're
21
          going into capital development of the airport.
2.2
               CHAIRMAN CLARKE: They're -- they're still
23
          cash. They're still -- they go -- they go through
          our cash account.
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MR. OLSON: They don't go to our operating.

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We can't use those funds to operate.
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 2.
               CHAIRMAN CLARKE: And we don't. We --
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              MR. OLSON: In fact --
 4
               CHAIRMAN CLARKE: -- convert them into assets.
 5
               MR. OLSON: In fact, we have -- we have to
 6
          match them. We have to match them. We have a --
 7
          they come with an obligation for us to match them.
               CHAIRMAN CLARKE: And that's what -- that's --
 8
 9
               MR. OLSON: 2.5 million --
               CHAIRMAN CLARKE: That's what's showing on the
10
          bottom of the form. The $2.566 million at the
11
          bottom of the form is our match --
12
13
              MR. OLSON: Which one?
14
               CHAIRMAN CLARKE: It can -- the second-to-last
          line on your -- on that budget sheet.
15
16
               MR. OLSON: Capital expenditure, yes. Right.
17
               CHAIRMAN CLARKE: That's where it's coming
18
          from. Cash is fungible. It goes into a -- it goes
19
          into a pool and it's extracted for capital
20
          improvements. It's -- and it's --
21
              MR. OLSON: So it ought to be easy to
22
          calculate what our overall position will be at the
23
          end of this year --
               CHAIRMAN CLARKE: Correct.
2.4
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MR. OLSON: -- budget year, the proposed

- budget, and we need that number, I believe. I

 don't think we should have a hearing until we have

 that calculation.
- CHAIRMAN CLARKE: Well, I'll work on that and get it -- get it out to you before the next meeting.
- 7 MR. OLSON: Well, just as an example, I have 8 the Boca Raton Airport budget, proposed budget --9 CHAIRMAN CLARKE: That's a good one.
- MR. OLSON: -- from their authority, and they
 do not include federal and state grants in their
 operating budget.

They show a net income, it's all the cash

income, it's -- in Boca's case, they're having a

positive of \$1.4 million, and they are carrying

a -- they're carrying a reserve balance of

\$12.9 million. And we're -- if we -- if we go

forward with this budget, we have virtually very

little left.

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And the only reason I'm bringing this up is I think a lot of our attention needs to go to revenue enhancement and expenses reduction. And there are a bunch of things that we need to consider. I've listed about nine of them that I've been able to find and consider as to things that we need to

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seriously, very seriously think about as we're
 1
 2
          reviewing the budget for the coming year.
 3
               CHAIRMAN CLARKE: And maybe -- I would suggest
 4
          you spend a little time with the current
 5
          financials, because if you'll take a look at this,
 6
          I'm showing Mr. Olson the current -- the financials
          as of the end of July, you can clearly see that
 7
          federal and state revenue is included in our income
          statement which we review every month.
 9
               MR. OLSON: We can't use federal and state
10
          grants to pay our operating expenses.
11
               CHAIRMAN CLARKE: We're not -- and we're not.
12
13
               MR. OLSON: So --
               CHAIRMAN CLARKE: They -- as I'll -- I'll
14
          repeat myself --
15
16
               MR. OLSON: -- why are they -- why are they
17
          included in our operating budget?
18
               CHAIRMAN CLARKE: They're included in our
19
          budget. The budget is con --
20
               MR. OLSON:
                           They're included in two different
21
          places. They're included in our capital
2.2
          development project budget, which is appropriate,
23
          but they're included in our operating budget, also.
2.4
               CHAIRMAN CLARKE: It's a -- it's a single
25
          budget that's divided into two pieces. We have
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operating and maintenance expenses for ongoing
 1
 2
          operations --
 3
               MR. OLSON: Okav. Well --
 4
               CHAIRMAN CLARKE: -- and we have whatever's
          left over from the operating and maintenance that's
 5
          available for capital is converted to assets.
               MR. OLSON: Well --
 7
               MS. LIOTTA: I have a question.
 8
 9
               CHAIRMAN CLARKE: Yep?
10
               MS. LIOTTA: Is the budget format as it sits
          today in its proposed form consistent with the same
11
12
          format that was used in previous years?
1.3
               CHAIRMAN CLARKE: No, because that was -- in
14
          my view, that was very difficult to follow. It
          was -- it was -- let's say it was chopped up.
15
16
               So I tried to simplify it, but what I
17
          neglected to do is put in last year's cash and then
18
          show this year's projected year-end -- or next
19
          year's projected year-end cash.
20
               So I'm perfectly willing to do that so -- if
21
          it will help to enlighten the process for you. But
2.2
          there's -- basically we take revenue minus
23
          expenses, and what is left over is available for
24
          capital projects.
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And what -- and what was -- Mr. Dean so --

1	Commissioner Dean so aptly described, what what
2	would be missing or what we need to do on a
3	long-term basis is fill in those gaps in the
4	revenue.
5	You stated where are we going to get the
6	money? Well, money comes from three sources. It
7	comes from net income, it comes from grants, or it
8	comes from borrowing. Or there could be a fourth
9	source, and that could be contributions, if someone
10	donates money or or resources to us. So there's
11	really four.
12	So you can't look at the at the capital
13	budget and the O & M budget in isolation. They are
14	linked because we are a single entity and our
15	MS. LIOTTA: Yeah, I I just can't get past.
16	You know, there's \$6.6 million worth of expenses
17	here for the sewer main and water main loop and
18	extension
19	CHAIRMAN CLARKE: Right. And we haven't
20	MS. LIOTTA: and we don't have \$6.6 million
21	coming in
22	CHAIRMAN CLARKE: That is correct.
23	MS. LIOTTA: next year. So there's no way
24	that we have cash to cover that. So, you know
25	CHAIRMAN CLARKE: Let me let me repeat

that. Okay. That is in fiscal -- that has been 1 2 targeted for fiscal year 2025. By that time, we 3 will explore --MS. LIOTTA: I see. It changes from '24 to **'**25. 5 CHAIRMAN CLARKE: Right. We will explore ways 7 to cover that gap. It can come from grants, net 8 income, long-term bonds. 9 MR. OLSON: The State Infrastructure Bank --CHAIRMAN CLARKE: That's another source. 10 11 MR. OLSON: -- their deadline for applications 12 was June 30th for projects that are going to be 1.3 funded in '24-'25. 14 CHAIRMAN CLARKE: Right. MR. OLSON: We missed the deadline for that. 15 16 CHAIRMAN CLARKE: Well, we can --17 MR. OLSON: I've been doing research on other 18 possibilities, but I think first off, I would urge 19 our interim executive director to meet with -- and 20 obviously you join, to meet with our CPA, even if 21 we have to pay them some hourly fee, to organize 22 our budget the way other air -- public airport 23 authorities are organizing their budget, and -- and 24 come with a verified projected end of year capital

reserve if we have the -- the budget that would be

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organized the way -- that way.
 1
 2.
               And I believe we should not have a hearing on
 3
         the budget today because I don't think it's in a
 4
         form that we should have a hearing on. We -- are
 5
         we required to have two -- two hearings?
 6
               MR. DOUGLAS: Okay. My understanding was that
         this was a tentative meeting.
 7
              MR. OLSON: Okay. So --
 8
 9
              MR. DOUGLAS: This is not the final.
               MR. OLSON: Okay. Okay. So that's my
10
          recommendation -- or urging. Urging. I urge that.
11
12
               CHAIRMAN CLARKE: You know, I'm -- I'm sorry
13
         that you're having difficulty understanding the --
14
              MR. OLSON: No, it's not --
               CHAIRMAN CLARKE: -- the concept.
15
16
              MR. OLSON: -- difficulty understanding.
17
               CHAIRMAN CLARKE: I believe you are, but I
         will --
18
19
               MR. OLSON: I was -- I was hoping that I was
20
         wrong and now I'm realizing I'm not.
21
               CHAIRMAN CLARKE: No. I believe you are, I'm
22
          sorry to say, but you can't --
23
              MS. LIOTTA: I have a -- I'm sorry to
24
          interrupt. I do --
               CHAIRMAN CLARKE: One leads into the other,
25
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- 1 capital and O&M.
- 2 MS. LIOTTA: Is there an action to be taken
- 3 today or is this a hearing to allow feedback from
- 4 the community?
- 5 CHAIRMAN CLARKE: Well, it's --
- 6 MS. LIOTTA: I mean, I don't --
- 7 MR. DOUGLAS: Well, there needs to be public
- 8 comment, for sure.
- 9 MS. LIOTTA: Public comment needs to happen,
- 10 but there's nothing necessarily here today to be
- 11 voted upon.
- 12 CHAIRMAN CLARKE: Right.
- 13 MR. DOUGLAS: Unless staff requests --
- MR. OLSON: If there's any wisdom out there,
- we want to hear it.
- 16 CHAIRMAN CLARKE: Yeah, please. Are there any
- 17 CPAs in the audience?
- 18 MR. DOUGLAS: The vote of the budget would
- 19 come at the final hearing.
- MR. OLSON: Doctors in the room.
- 21 CHAIRMAN CLARKE: Right.
- 22 MS. LIOTTA: Okay. So there can be -- there
- can be amendments made --
- MR. DOUGLAS: Yes.
- MS. LIOTTA: -- there can be additions, there

can be clarifications, there can be additional 1 2 information put in the budget. 3 CHAIRMAN CLARKE: Correct. MR. DOUGLAS: Right. 4 5 MS. LIOTTA: Okay. Thank you. MR. ROBERTS: It sounds like -- from the 7 bleachers, it sounds like folks are asking for a balance sheet. You know --CHAIRMAN CLARKE: Yeah, I -- that is -- you 9 10 know. MR. ROBERTS: -- a before and after balance 11 12 sheet. 1.3 CHAIRMAN CLARKE: Yeah, that was -- that can 14 be done. It takes time. It takes time. MR. OLSON: Please get with our CPA so that 15 16 we -- firm so that we --17 MR. TOPP: We have a CPA, with all due 18 respect. 19 CHAIRMAN CLARKE: Well, I'm not a CP -- CMA, 20 but, you know, we can -- we can talk to them, but 21 keep in mind CPAs, they don't run businesses, they 22 make sure that the accounting rules are being 23 followed. So they don't run -- they certainly

don't run airports. So we'll come back with a --

MS. LIOTTA: Yeah, I --

24

1	CHAIRMAN CLARKE: revised budget and a
2	balance sheet.
3	MS. LIOTTA: Then looking at the ordinary
4	items, you know, it does there doesn't the
5	day-to-day operations seem like they're in line;
6	there's no planned big changes.
7	To the extent there is a big change, there's a
8	big reduction in one line that more than offsets
9	the events and sponsorships, that more than
10	offsets the increase in personnel. And we've been
11	saying for many, many, many meetings that we don't
12	have enough staffing, so I'm not surprised to see
13	an increase on that line item.
14	CHAIRMAN CLARKE: Right.
15	MS. LIOTTA: So I don't see anything in here
16	on the day-to-day budget that gives me any concern.
17	And the bigger ticket items for years that
18	have they're not even next year, they're in the
19	future years, are not, like you said, items that we
20	even have to solve for right now.
21	CHAIRMAN CLARKE: Right. It's just a
22	projection; it's not it's not cast in stone.
23	MR. OLSON: There is a con you would agree
24	there's a concern we're for having operating
25	losses, several years of operating losses?

CHAIRMAN CLARKE: Well, you can --1 2 MS. LIOTTA: I don't know that -- sitting here 3 today, that there is a pattern of years of 4 operating losses. 5 CHAIRMAN CLARKE: Every year. 6 MS. LIOTTA: This year was what it was. I 7 don't know that that is data that suggests that there is a pattern --9 MR. OLSON: Well, we're looking --10 MS. LIOTTA: -- or that it will be repeated next year. So I'm not making any assumptions on 11 12 t.hat. MR. OLSON: Okay. But the budget we're 13 looking at has an operating loss for the coming 14 15 year. 16 CHAIRMAN CLARKE: And last year's financials 17 had an operating loss, if you're looking at it the 18 way you look at it. 19 Our -- our operating revenue, pure operating 20 revenue coming from the hangar rentals and the fuel 21 primarily, it's 90 -- more than 90 percent of it, 22 minus the ongoing running operations is -- has a 23 positive cash flow. That's why the cash is built 2.4 up on the balance sheet over the last numerous 25 years.

1	MR. OLSON: We we should actually be
2	building a reserve, given what our challenges is
3	the following year
4	CHAIRMAN CLARKE: We have been.
5	MR. OLSON: that Ms. Liotta has cited.

1.3

2.4

MR. OLSON: -- that Ms. Liotta has cited. I mean, we really are facing a huge challenge in the coming year.

And again, we're entertaining development proposals for east corporate area that we -- where we're needing to do road acquisition and water and sewer in order to really open that area up.

So again, the other question that we're going to have -- have to grapple with, and it's I guess somewhat of a subjective question, is what is a safety cushion of minimal capital reserve that our independent airport authority should be carrying to give some level of security that if we have some unforeseen big expense we're facing, that we can handle it without shutting the airport down?

CHAIRMAN CLARKE: Well, again, I would urge you to go back and look at some of the past financial statements and you'll notice that we -- when you include depreciation, we indeed have an operating loss, but when you add depreciation and noncash expense back to those -- to the cash flow,

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the airport has had a positive cash flow every year
 1
 2
          after year after year. And currently, the last
 3
          time I looked, we had something on the order of
          $5.3 or 4 million in cash.
 5
               So the cash has been built up over the years,
          and as a matter of fact, it appears that the -- the
 7
          general aviation community has been more of a
          subsidizing activity -- activities that were
          designed to bring a commercial carrier in here,
10
          which is a great loss.
               We've spent almost $17 million on a commercial
11
12
          terminal, an apron, approaches, and the -- the
          revenue that we've derived from that asset is
1.3
14
         minimal.
               MR. OLSON: $17 million, how much of that was
15
16
          federal, state?
17
               CHAIRMAN CLARKE: That, I don't know. That
18
          would require research.
19
               MR. OLSON: I mean, I don't think that was a
20
          local investment.
21
               CHAIRMAN CLARKE: No, it -- no. It would
22
          be -- it would be primarily from federal and state
23
          grant sources --
2.4
               MS. LIOTTA: Well, it's --
```

CHAIRMAN CLARKE: -- supplemented by local

1 sources. 2 MR. OLSON: The -- I've got the calculations 3 from when Frontier served our airport --4 CHAIRMAN CLARKE: Yeah, that's not -- that's 5 not -- the point I'm trying to make is --6 MR. OLSON: But the revenue from Frontier when 7 it was serving our airport was -- resulted in revenue of \$13.20 per passenger per flight. 8 9 CHAIRMAN CLARKE: How much came in over time? 10 MR. OLSON: Well --MS. LIOTTA: I -- I'm not -- it seems like we 11 12 might be drifting away from the topic at hand. It 13 looks like -- I don't disagree --14 MR. OLSON: I mean, it was cited that we have 15 a liability of --16 MS. LIOTTA: I don't disagree that -- number 17 one, I don't know whether it's -- I don't know 18 anything about those numbers. They could be right. 19 They could be wrong. I don't know. Those might be 20 net. Those might be gross. And I don't disagree 21 that we have some policy issues to address as far 22 as long-term planning safety cushions. I think 23 that's definitely, you know, something the board, 24 we should be considering and planning for.

I don't know that today in this budget is the

1	time to you know, that we can tackle that. This
2	is the budget for this coming year. If there's
3	items that look quite large in here, I think it's,
4	you know, within you know, like, for example,
5	\$120,000 for network phone website upgrade. You
6	know, that's a lot. Maybe there's a way maybe
7	that's necessary. Maybe there's a way to reduce
8	that. But I think those are more implementation
9	issues of having staff look at some of these
10	things. Can we could RFQs to maybe bring down some
11	of those estimated costs?
12	But I don't think those are things that the
13	board needs to get into at at this level. And
14	other bigger policy issues are, you know, not
15	something that we are we are really prepared to
16	tackle today, although I believe we should.
17	MR. OLSON: Yes, thank you. Yeah.
18	CHAIRMAN CLARKE: Any comment public
19	comments? Mr. Riera?
20	MR. RIERA: Jose Riera, 133 Paranza Trace here
21	in St. Augustine.
22	Just to address Mr. Olson, since he may have a
23	concern, perhaps what we need to do is really have
24	what's in our budget so we can see what it was that

was presented last year as to what it was presented

1 this year.

2.

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2.4

And I understand also the new board has a new form of looking at it. But just to really get everybody on the same page, maybe we need to have something like that.

Because my next question was going to be, why are we bickering about these items? I mean, if we've been having losses for the last ten years and we're now just finding out that we have not losses, wait a minute, something is amiss.

So my concern is, why don't we just simply present the numbers in a way that everybody is understanding. I know -- my understanding is last year we were presented the numbers, but they didn't make any sense. We're now presenting the numbers without making any sense. Does anybody make sense anymore? And so maybe we ought to go to a common consensus and get it done in a manner that is understandable for both the board and the public as well.

If we need to go to consult a CPA, we've got to be also concerned that that's money that is coming out of the -- you know, out of the pockets, I mean, if it's not in the budget, it's going to be a negative number. May not be something big but

- 1 something that was not included.
- 2 And so, anyway, I just want to make sure that
- 3 let's get on the same page. We're going back and
- forth. So, the public is getting tired of that.
- 5 I'm getting tired of that. I don't have time to be
- 6 spending time over here, you know. And so, come
- on, let's get on with it. Let's get on the same
- 8 page, please.
- 9 CHAIRMAN CLARKE: Thank you, Mr. Riera.
- MR. OLSON: Yeah.
- 11 CHAIRMAN CLARKE: And we have another half a
- meeting. Mr. Liotta?
- 13 MR. LIOTTA: For what it's worth, I seem to
- follow the document pretty well. It looks like you
- 15 have a net loss each year, but you're generating
- 16 positive cash flow each year.
- 17 CHAIRMAN CLARKE: Correct.
- 18 MR. LIOTTA: Okay. So, anyway, seems pretty
- 19 straightforward, you know.
- 20 Depreciation expense is good. For anybody
- 21 who's been a small business owner, you live off of
- depreciation so that you don't pay taxes. Come on,
- guys, that's how it works.
- 24 Anyway, I do think a statement of cash flows
- would be helpful so people can see how the cash

- 1 changes over time. Obviously if it's going up,
- 2 it's going up.
- 3 But what seems to be missing here is a CFO or
- 4 other person who is able to actually answer
- 5 people's questions and put together documents, cash
- flow statements, whatever. Obviously I know you
- 7 have that expertise, but the staff needs that
- 8 expertise to be able to support the entire board.
- 9 And I don't think the CPA firm is -- is the
- appropriate for that, right?
- MS. MARTIN: Right.
- MR. LIOTTA: You need a staff member for that.
- 13 And I think that until such time as you have staff
- ability to do that, you should seriously consider
- 15 talking to the county and finding out if they can
- 16 provide you some financial services on a cost
- 17 recovery basis until the staff is able to do it
- themselves.
- 19 I don't think the county would mind augmenting
- 20 the staff on a cost recovery basis. And they are
- certainly growing in revenues, as we've heard,
- 22 maybe they can even help.
- MR. OLSON: Yeah, good thought.
- 24 CHAIRMAN CLARKE: Thank you. Very good
- 25 comments. Appreciate them.

MR. TOPP: I will look into that. 1 2 CHAIRMAN CLARKE: Okay. Any other -- any 3 other comments/questions about the budget? 4 MR. OLSON: Well, let's set some goals. 5 Time -- I think we have to have a budget before 6 October 1st --7 MR. DOUGLAS: Right. MR. OLSON: -- that we all feel confident in 8 and have to approve. So if we need to schedule two 9 more -- two hearings, do we have them on our 10 calendars now? 11 12 MR. TOPP: We have one, the final -- the final 13 hearing, but we can move it -- we can change that. CHAIRMAN CLARKE: Well, I think we need a --14 MR. TOPP: Put out a notice and change it. 15 16 MR. OLSON: We've got information coming back 17 that we need to review and approve. Hopefully it 18 will be in a form we can act on. 19 What's the notice period and can we have the 20 two hearings close to each other? Because we're 21 halfway through September almost. What's the 22 requirement on noticing and scheduling? 23 MR. DOUGLAS: Seven days for the agenda. MR. OLSON: Seven days. 2.4 25 MS. LIOTTA: So when's -- all right. So

- 1 remind me, when's the final hearing right now?
- 2 CHAIRMAN CLARKE: That would be the 18th.
- 3 MR. TOPP: 18th, we have the final public
- 4 hearing. We can change that. Chloe will put out a
- 5 change.
- 6 MS. LIOTTA: Okay. That's right. It's like
- 7 this one, it's right after the regular.
- 8 MR. TOPP: Right. And then what we can do is
- 9 if we need seven days from that day, the 19th to
- 10 26th, I guess.
- MR. OLSON: We have an Authority meeting on
- 12 the 25th at 4 p.m., right?
- 13 CHAIRMAN CLARKE: Correct.
- MR. OLSON: So could those two be the meetings
- at which we do the hearing?
- MR. DOUGLAS: You can put the budget hearing
- 17 at the very end.
- 18 MR. OLSON: Okay. 18th and 20 -- 25th.
- 19 CHAIRMAN CLARKE: So we're going to cancel the
- 20 18th?
- MR. OLSON: No, we need two.
- 22 MR. TOPP: We're going to change it to an
- initial budget hearing.
- 24 CHAIRMAN CLARKE: I won't be able to complete
- any -- the work by the 18th. I mean, I wouldn't be

- able to send it out. I'm out of town. I'm --
- 2 MR. TOPP: That's September. We've got till
- 3 the 30th.
- 4 MS. LIOTTA: Well, I think we have the
- 5 constraint that we have, and I appreciate the
- 6 chairman for volunteering his time and his
- 7 expertise, and I also appreciate that -- you know,
- 8 with all of the changes recently at the staff, I
- 9 very much appreciate all the extra effort it's
- taken to put together the information, you know,
- and to help support this budget process.
- 12 So I personally don't expect perfection, and
- to the extent that anything is found later that
- could be clarified or modified, I do believe the
- Authority would have the ability to amend a budget.
- But I don't want to see us miss our
- requirement to get a budget approved or put undue
- 18 extra work on -- on the chairman. So I think it
- 19 would be fine to leave the next budget as the 18th,
- 20 with the meetings that we have and, you know, if --
- and if we can get the additional information about
- 22 cash flows and whatnot -- oh, I'm sorry, move it to
- 23 the 25th --
- MR. TOPP: Right.
- 25 CHAIRMAN CLARKE: Move it to have 25th.

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MS. LIOTTA: -- to give you extra time --
 1
 2.
               CHAIRMAN CLARKE: Yeah.
 3
              MS. LIOTTA: -- but not try to squeeze in an
          extra meeting and give you that time to work.
 5
               MR. TOPP: Okay. So the initial -- initial on
          the 25th and then do eight days later.
 7
               CHAIRMAN CLARKE: But that will be the next
 8
          fiscal year.
 9
              MS. LIOTTA: But we have to get it approved
10
          like --
11
               MR. OLSON: And it's got to be submitted to
12
          the state. Does -- do we have to hear back from
1.3
          the state --
14
               CHAIRMAN CLARKE: Please clarify that. We --
          we're not aware of any -- are you aware,
15
16
          Mr. Douglas, of a state agency that reviews our
17
          budget and approves it? I'm not aware of any.
18
              MR. OLSON: I was told that there was, but --
19
               CHAIRMAN CLARKE: Can you tell us who that is
20
          so we can contact them?
21
              MR. OLSON: Yes.
22
               MR. DOUGLAS: Well, for the TRIM, for the
23
          Truth in Millage --
2.4
               CHAIRMAN CLARKE: Right.
25
              MR. DOUGLAS: -- that is a separate --
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CHAIRMAN CLARKE: Right.
 1
 2
               MR. DOUGLAS: -- issue that's already been
 3
          taken up --
               CHAIRMAN CLARKE: Yeah, and we are -- we're at
 5
          zero.
               MR. DOUGLAS: This is the operating, the local
 7
          operating budget.
               MR. OLSON: I believe I was told that as a --
          in a prior year of our being -- serving on this
 9
10
          board that it goes to the state.
               CHAIRMAN CLARKE: Well, if you can get us the
11
12
          information, we're -- no one -- are you aware of
13
          that, Mr. Topp?
14
               MR. TOPP: What is that?
               CHAIRMAN CLARKE: That we submit our budget --
15
16
               MR. OLSON: If it's not in state statute, it
17
          probably isn't required, but I don't -- okay.
18
               MR. ROBERTS: We'll find out.
19
               MS. LIOTTA: Yeah, if that was -- if that was
20
          some report on millage, which we're not doing, then
21
          it seems moot.
22
               MR. TOPP: The only person we have to send it
23
          to is the gentleman here in St. Johns County, but I
24
          don't think there's any state requirement.
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MR. OLSON: Okay.

25

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MR. TOPP: But we'll double check that.
 1
 2
              MR. OLSON: Well, yeah, if it's not state
 3
          statute, then it probably isn't required.
 4
               MR. TOPP: So back to the dates, the challenge
 5
          is the 25th -- well, we have the time now. We
         can -- we can do the 25th, which is Yom Kippur, by
 7
         the way, and -- and if we put the notice out
 8
         tomorrow, we can do something on the 30th. What
 9
         day is the 30th?
10
               CHAIRMAN CLARKE: Saturday.
              MR. TOPP: Saturday?
11
12
              MR. OLSON: Do we have a meeting on the 18th?
13
          I just want to know. It's on my calendar.
14
               CHAIRMAN CLARKE: We're going to have to
         cancel it.
15
16
              MR. TOPP: Yeah.
17
              MR. OLSON: So no -- no Authority meeting on
18
         the 18th. Okay.
19
              MS. LIOTTA: So we're moving that to the --
20
         the plan is to move that to the 25th at the same
21
         time?
22
               MR. TOPP: Right. But then what are we going
23
         to do with the -- the second meeting? Do we have
24
         to have it --
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MS. LIOTTA: Well, this --

25

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1 MR. TOPP: -- by the 30th?
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- 2 MR. ROBERTS: I think we're saying --
- MS. LIOTTA: Yeah, I think we can count that
- as -- this -- I'm saying don't -- we've just had a
- 5 meeting.
- 6 MR. TOPP: Oh. So this will be -- this will
- 7 be the final meeting on the 25th.
- 8 MS. LIOTTA: I think given our constraints,
- 9 that's reasonable.
- MR. TOPP: Okay.
- 11 MR. ROBERTS: Yes.
- 12 MR. TOPP: Got it. So for the public comment
- and stuff.
- MR. ROBERTS: The 25th, as I understand that
- discussion, would be the adoption of the budget.
- MR. TOPP: Right, on the 25th.
- MR. DOUGLAS: The final hearing.
- 18 MR. TOPP: And for public -- public comment.
- 19 So let's put it out ahead of time.
- MR. DOUGLAS: Okay.
- MR. OLSON: I think it's got to be published
- in the paper.
- MR. DOUGLAS: At least seven days. If you
- want to do 14, that's even better.
- MR. TOPP: By the way, we do have a workshop

- 1 scheduled for the 22nd, Dennis -- Mr. Chairman.
- 2 CHAIRMAN CLARKE: We're going to have to
- 3 postpone that.
- 4 MR. TOPP: Okay.
- 5 CHAIRMAN CLARKE: I'm not going to be able --
- 6 I'm not going to be able to put all of this
- 7 together, including that.
- 8 MR. OLSON: That -- the workshop is not a
- 9 budget workshop.
- 10 CHAIRMAN CLARKE: Yeah, it's my own personal
- 11 time. I won't be able to get this --
- 12 MS. LIOTTA: Well, I think I have to object to
- canceling that. I mean, I understand if you can't
- 14 make it, but there's four other board members and I
- do think it's an important workshop.
- MR. OLSON: I agree.
- 17 CHAIRMAN CLARKE: Is Ms. Ludlow on the phone?
- 18 MR. TOPP: No, she did send me a note, but we
- 19 can --
- 20 CHAIRMAN CLARKE: How about -- how about
- Ms. Cash-Chapman? Well, she'll --
- MR. TOPP: Yeah.
- 23 CHAIRMAN CLARKE: That is -- well, that's a
- week from -- yeah, that's a week from this -- she
- has almost two weeks. So she should be recovered.

1	MR. OLSON: It's at 9:30.
2	CHAIRMAN CLARKE: Oh. We'll continue that
3	meeting.
4	MR. OLSON: And that's being published, right
5	or noticed
6	CHAIRMAN CLARKE: It has been.
7	MR. OLSON: properly noticed?
8	CHAIRMAN CLARKE: It has been.
9	MR. OLSON: Okay.
10	CHAIRMAN CLARKE: All right. So we're going
11	to go with the 25th for the budget meeting.
12	MR. ROBERTS: Mr. Chairman, there's a public.
13	CHAIRMAN CLARKE: Oh, I'm sorry. Ms. Martin?
14	PUBLIC COMMENT
15	MS. MARTIN: Sacha Martin.
16	I agree with what Jen said, that considering
17	the complications involved in the past, our
18	accounting history and the present accounting
19	history and even more the accounting history going
20	forward, that there's bound to be a change in the
21	budget going forward.
22	And also, regarding involving the CPA firm, I
23	think when I was here when they did the audit, and
24	our CPA firm, if we still have the same one, is
25	under question for their ability to perform the

- 1 right thing, and that it would also involve a lot
- 2 more time. That's it.
- 3 CHAIRMAN CLARKE: Thank you. Any other
- 4 comments? Thank you, Ms. Martin. That's --
- 5 appreciate that.
- 6 MS. LIOTTA: This may not be the right -- I
- 7 have a slightly off-topic comment. We weren't able
- 8 to do board comments for the last meeting. Can we
- 9 still do that?
- 10 MR. DOUGLAS: Well, I think after the budget
- meeting -- oh, you mean just comments -- board
- 12 comments for the budget --
- MS. LIOTTA: No.
- MR. DOUGLAS: -- specifically? Yeah, we're
- going back into the regular.
- MS. LIOTTA: Okay.
- 17 MR. OLSON: So are we at general public
- 18 comment? Is that where we are?
- 19 CHAIRMAN CLARKE: We're in --
- 20 MR. DOUGLAS: We're in general public comment
- 21 for the budget hearing itself.
- 22 CHAIRMAN CLARKE: For the budget.
- MR. OLSON: Okay.
- MR. DOUGLAS: Not for the regularly scheduled
- meeting.

1	MR. OLSON: Okay.
2	MR. DOUGLAS: We're going to go back into
3	that.
4	CHAIRMAN CLARKE: Yeah, we're going to go back
5	into that regularly scheduled meeting. Any any
6	more issues?
7	(None.)
8	CHAIRMAN CLARKE: All right. The next budget
9	hearing, we'll come up with a balance sheet and a
10	cash flow statement to to help to explain, you
11	know, how this process works. All right. Hearing
12	no more comments, we'll adjourn the budget hearing.
13	(Budget hearing adjourned at 5:47 p.m.)
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1	REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE
2	
3	STATE OF FLORIDA)
4	COUNTY OF ST. JOHNS)
5	
6	I, JANET M. BEASON, FPR-C, RMR, CRR, certify that I was
7	authorized to and did stenographically report the foregoing
8	proceedings and that the transcript is a true record of my
9	stenographic notes.
10	Dated this 29th day of September, 2023.
11	
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13	JANET M. BEASON, FPR-C, RMR, CRR
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CHAIRMAN CLARKE:	133 [1] 31/20	42/11 44/7	all right [7] 3/2 4/9	18/25 19/1 19/7 19/14
[125]		about [14] 8/22 9/4	14/20 35/25 43/10 45/8	20/10 29/6 30/21 30/22
MR. DOUGLAS: [24]	14 [1] 41/24			
3/8 3/15 23/6 23/9 24/7	1633 [1] 1/19	12/2 13/15 14/9 14/21	45/11	31/25 32/19 34/13
24/13 24/18 24/24 25/4	17 [1] 1/24	18/24 19/1 30/18 32/7	all-important [1] 6/25	34/21 37/19 39/8 41/4
35/7 35/23 36/16 38/22	18th [8] 36/2 36/3	35/3 37/21 42/20 42/20	allocate [1] 7/24	41/14
38/25 39/2 39/6 41/17	36/18 36/20 36/25	ABSENT [1] 1/12	allocated [1] 11/15	asked [1] 5/22
	37/19 40/12 40/18	account [1] 16/24	allow [1] 24/3	asking [1] 25/7
41/20 41/23 44/10	19th [1] 36/9	accounting [5] 8/8	almost [4] 9/15 29/11	assessed [1] 5/12
44/14 44/20 44/24 45/2	1et [1] 35/6	25/22 43/18 43/18	35/21 42/25	assessment [1] 5/13
MR. LIOTTA: [3] 33/13	131 [1] 69/6	43/19	already [2] 13/12 39/2	asset [1] 29/13
33/18 34/12	2			
MR. OLSON: [86]		acquisition [1] 28/10	also [9] 1/15 3/14 14/6	assets [7] 9/16 9/16
MR. RIERA: [1] 31/20	2,637,000 [1] 5/5	across [1] 5/21	19/23 32/2 32/22 37/7	10/1 10/8 13/8 17/4
MR. ROBERTS: [7]	2.5 [1] 17/9	act [1] 35/18	43/22 44/1	20/6
25/6 25/11 39/18 41/2	20 [1] 36/18	action [1] 24/2	although [1] 31/16	assumptions [1] 27/11
41/11 41/14 43/12	2023 [3] 1/6 5/2 46/10	activities [2] 7/1 29/8	am [1] 9/5	attention [1] 18/21
	2024 [1] 13/10	activity [1] 29/8	amend [1] 37/15	audience [1] 24/17
MR. TOPP: [33] 3/17	2025 [1] 22/2		amendments [1] 24/23	
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