1	PLANNING BOARD COUNTY OF ALBANY
2	TOWN OF COLONIE
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5	CONSTRUCTION OF A 12,000 SQUARE FOOT OFFICE/TRAINING FACILITY - PRESENTATION OF AMENDED
6	CONCEPT PLANS  ***********************************
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8	THE TAPED AND TRANSCRIBED MINUTES of the above entitled proceeding BY NANCY STRANG-VANDEBOGART commencing on October 27, 2009 at 7:09 p.m. at the
9	Public Operations Center 347 Old Niskayuna Road, Latham, New York 12110
11	BOARD MEMBERS:
12	CHARLES J. O'ROURKE, Acting Chairman
13	ELENA VAIDA TIMOTHY LANE
14	TOM NARDACCI MICHAEL SULLIVAN
15	PETER STUTO, Jr. Esq., Attorney for the Planning Board
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18	Also present:
19	Joseph LaCivita, Director, Planning and Economic Development
20	Tom Andress, ABD Engineers
21	Kevin DeLaughter, Planning and Economic Development
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1 ACTING CHAIRMAN O'ROURKE: This evening we have Shaker Veterinary Hospital, 213 2 Maxwell Road; construction of a 12,000 square foot office/training facility, presentation of 3 amended concept plans. This is for discussion only. 4 Kevin, would you like to bring everybody back up to speed on this? 5 MR. DELAUGHTER: If I could, I would, but I'm not really familiar with this status of this project. I think the last this was MR. LACIVITA: before you, the board had concerns about parking on the private road. They had concerns about the accessory building being over to the 9 west of the site. There were concerns about the height of the building and so on. I know 10 that there have been a number of conversations from ABD regarding the change to it and the 11 additional parking being put in the back. So, what they're looking for tonight is to come 12 before the board and kind of show you how they have addressed the concerns that this board 13 has had prior - at least an idea to go before the Zoning Board before they put anything on 14 15 paper. ACTING CHAIRMAN O'ROURKE: Okay, go 16 ahead. MR. ANDRESS: I'm Tom Andress and I'm 17 here before on behalf of the members of the Shaker Veterinary Hospital. 18 We were before this board in June. At that meeting we had a lot of discussion. There 19 was a lot of concern with reference to where the building was being proposed. 2.0 There was a lot of concern in reference to the parking that was out there. I know that 21 Mr. Grasso has brought in some pictures of that and the access from the houses in the 22 rear. 23 So, this is just a quick summary. We have the veterinary practice in the front

(Indicating). We have the three residential houses behind it. The first residential house

is actually on the parcel of the veterinary practice. Then there are two additional houses

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behind that. There is actually another lot behind that owned by the veterinary practice also. But there is not a house on it. So, this access that goes through the property has an easement to allow the private residents that are behind it.

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We had an opportunity to go out there in the last few weeks. If you have, I think that you would be presently surprised. The road is clear. There has been parking assigned. There is an area that is defined very clearly for the parking for the staff at the hospital. There is plenty of parking in front of the building for the clients as they are coming in. So, since June, there has been a lot of work out there. We tried to clean things up which was directed by this board and to come back with a plan that we would want to speak to this board about before we go through the process of getting zoning variances. We had come before this board with some variances for the building and the grade that we had there. We now have to go back and get them again for the changes that we're proposing.

You all have a copy of the plan. Here is the outline of the area that we are now proposing to be all included in the veterinarian practice. Previously we had not included the residential lot with the residential house that's owned by the practice. Now, we encompass that into this with the changes of this map. This is the map that you had in your project file.

The building - you see this black area here (Indicating)? That was where the building was proposed. The building is now being proposed as additions to the existing building.

Right here with the existing building (Indicating), there would be a box that would be on the right side. This is again, something new that we did not have with the plan.

So overall, we're looking at a single building that's existing and a two story addition to the right side and a shed type addition off of the back here.

Maxwell Road is being changed. It's actually being changed as we speak. There is going to be new access in from Maxwell Road. The existing Maxwell Road is a dead end so we're hoping to go to the Zoning Board and our intent is to put in two rows of parking. Right now we only have a single row of parking. We'd like a double row of parking in front. We have more of a need there because that's where the main entrance to the building is.

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Along with that, we're looking to modify the smaller parking area and make the principal area for all the staff from the vet and the overflow parking to the right here (Indicating). This would give us many more spaces which is significant and greater space than what we've been working with in the past.

Everything has been moved to the front. We simplified the design. We made it a lot easier for access. We have now improvements inside of the water district to eliminate all of the issues that we had with the water district. Since the building is all attached, we no longer have the issues with the fire hydrants. There have been all kinds of discussions about fire access to the building. We now have access around it and we'll take trees down. All of those things have now all gone away.

We're here tonight really to discuss any comments that you might have before we go back to the Zoning Board of Appeals to start this process again.

MR. NARDACCI: What was the square footage of the other plan with the new building?

MR. ANDRESS: This, I believe was right around 10,000. So, this square footage of this is similar. It's just that this was a single one-story and this is a two-story.

MR. NARDACCI: And the current configuration meets the similar needs that you had laid out for the other building?

MR. ANDRESS: It does. Some of the programs are being reduced down. That was set up for the warehouse. There was a lot set up

for training type programs. We're eliminating some of those things.

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This building here would be for all surgical (Indicating). The second story would have - right now it's not fully designed yet but we will have conference rooms and some storage space and then in the rear area there would be some additional day care.

MR. NARDACCI: You'd still be doing the off-site storage? That was a problem that you mentioned before.

MR. ANDRESS: No. We will have enough

room. Even though it will not be a lot, to use the second floor for storage. We'll have an elevator in the building so obviously we'll be able to provide storage for the second floor. We will be able to condense some.

ACTING CHAIRMAN O'ROURKE: Do you have information on -- I'm troubled every time somebody says that we're going to do a shed addition. Can you further explain?

MR. ANDRESS: I should say a single slope roof. This elevation would be the front that would face Maxwell (Indicating). This is the existing building. This would be the new building. This would be the side as you drive into the residence. You can see the two-story and then you would see the rear as a single-story. This area here would look like the rest of the building but the slope — you would actually have a slope roof here rather than a pitch off the side. A lot of that is being done for drainage issues. So, it's not a shed, per se. It's more of a single slope building.

ACTING CHAIRMAN O'ROURKE: Can we ask why you're encompassing the lot that's owned by

the principals?

MR. ANDRESS: We've had some discussions with the Bob Cordell from the Building Department and we have agreed to update that area right there. It's being used currently. Bob has inferred that we bring this back in and that we need to go for a variance to use that because we have a residential use on the

1	property. So, we had some discussions with them. What we're going to do is combine this
2	together but that eliminates the property line
3	between here (Indicating) so that we can make this look better and take some of this out and
4	make room there for green. We'd still have to go to the Zoning Board of Appeals, but we will
5	have to ask for a variance to allow the residential houses, say, in the commercial use
6	<pre>property.    ACTING CHAIRMAN O'ROURKE: I guess that's</pre>
7	what I'm getting at. What are you going to use the house for?
8	MR. ANDRESS: There is someone that is currently living there. We would not be using
9	that. I mean, the Zoning Board of Appeals came back and told us that they didn't want us to
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11	continue - ACTING CHAIRMAN O'ROURKE: Is it a rental
12	property?  MR. ANDRESS: I believe that it is rented
13	out, yes. ACTING CHAIRMAN O'ROURKE: I don't know
14	how the rest of the board feels, but I'm having a little bit of a problem with that.
15	First, it's encroaching on those other neighbors. I guess why the dog walk couldn't
16	be at the other end of the parking lot instead of I understand that it's only a couple of
17	houses but again, I think that we have an obligation to those residents who have lived
18	there and own those properties. If we take that and make it a commercial property then
19	you're going to ask the Zoning Board to leave
20	it as residential for the home?  MR. ANDRESS: To utilize the home as
21	residential - right now it is commercial. It is commercial property. It just happens to
22	have a residential house on it. So, it's all zoned commercial.
23	ACTING CHAIRMAN O'ROURKE: Right, but there are variances that you need to operate
24	onere are variances that you need to operate

commercially next to the residences.

MR. ANDRESS: No, because that's an existing house. I believe that if you wanted

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1	to change it to non residential use, then we
2	would be able to change it to non residential use. We want to maintain it as a residential
3	use. ACTING CHAIRMAN O'ROURKE: I'm not
4	understanding that.  MS. VAIDA: Is it in a residential use
5	because that person has something to do with the hospital? Is it a caretaker?
6	MR. ANDRESS: The person utilizing it is associated with the hospital.
7	MR. NARDACCI: Is there currently a variance there now that allows residential
8	use?
9	MR. ANDRESS: No, it's just preexisting in a commercial zone.  Joe, you'd have to tell me - I don't know
10	under the new zoning if they allow -
11	MR. LACIVITA: It's grandfathered. MR. LANE: Yeah, I believe so, if you
12	don't mind me saying. I have seen examples of this. It's possible to have a residential
13	within a commercial zone. That's not really unusual within the town.
14	MR. DELAUGHTER: I think that under current zoning, if this was a new site, a
15	residential use is not permitted. But as an existing residence, it is considered a
16	conforming use and it can continue. There is a
17	question with the mixed residential and commercial use and that's where the variance
18	comes in.  ACTING CHAIRMAN O'ROURKE: That's what
19	I'm getting at. If he goes for that zone change, then the grandfathering clause on that
20	<pre>property will be gone, no?     MR. DELAUGHTER: The variance request</pre>
21	would be to allow the residents to remain with the commercial use along with it to allow a
22	mixed use of property, rather than strictly residential.
23	ACTING CHAIRMAN O'ROURKE: But that's
24	against the Land Use Law. MR. DELAUGHTER: And that's why a
25	variance would be required.  MS. VAIDA: But for the house, the
	residential use, there is no variance that's

1 needed? The buildings conform with the current law. 2 ACTING CHAIRMAN O'ROURKE: They are separately deeded right now. 3 You're going to combine them? MR. ANDRESS: We're going to combine them 4 together, that's correct that they are separately deeded. 5 ACTING CHAIRMAN O'ROURKE: So it's a separate deed and it's grandfathered under the 6 new land use. But then when you move them in, it will not be a conforming use. That's what you need the variance for. Am I understanding that correctly? MR. ANDRESS: Yes, that's correct. 9 MS. VAIDA: Is the residential use - is it because you need somebody there? I know 10 that some of these hospitals have 24-hour care for patients. Is it for somebody to live there 11 to provide that service or are the people that live there totally unrelated? 12 MR. ANDRESS: They are unrelated but it is not being used as someone who is a 13 caretaker for 24 hour service. It could be, but it currently is not. 14 MR. SULLIVAN: What is the use of that lot, currently? 15 MR. ANDRESS: It's a dog walk area. 16 MR. SULLIVAN: And there is a fence up? MR. ANDRESS: Yes, there is a fence up 17 and there is screening. The buildings themselves provide screening so we certainly 18 want to leave those up. If we take those down it would open up the adjoining house. I 19 believe that the adjoining house was actually a barn that was associated with this house 20 here (Indicating). It's pretty much right on the property. But the house and the existing 21 garage acts as a buffer. ACTING CHAIRMAN O'ROURKE: 22 Would the dog walk - is that conforming now, Kevin? 23 MR. DELAUGHTER: To my knowledge, there was never an approval for that use of the 24 property, which would have been required. It's essentially a commercial use. It's an 25 accessory to the hospital and there should

have been an approval for it.

MR. DELAUGHTER: As far as I know, there has not been a commercial approval for that property.

ACTING CHAIRMAN O'ROURKE: I'm having a little difficulty. Again, I like this idea. Don't get me wrong. I like the idea 100% better than what was brought to us in June. My concern is the encroachment, which is already on-going. I'm only speaking for myself. I would not be for that zoning variance. I don't like the encroachment. Even though the person now is affiliated and rented from the veterinary practice, they could then change it to something different.

MR. ANDRESS: No, it would have to stay residential because of the residential use. I think that if we don't go for a variance for that, it's very simple. We can take that down and we can bring our commercial to whatever the requirement is - 10 feet from the property line. So, we can use it all for commercial use because it's a commercial zone and it would allow for commercial use. I don't see how it would have to go through this board for approval. I think that we're looking to maintain status quo back there by allowing the resident to stay. It's something that we would have to make our argument to the Zoning Board

of Appeals.

The issue of the dog walk is that we think that it's an appropriate area. If you move it anywhere else, you're going to take out a lot more woods and end up probably moving it closer to the residents.

MR. LACIVITA: Was the dog walk on the last time?

MR. ANDRESS: It was. It's in exactly the same position that it was before.

MR. LACIVITA: So that commercial approval then must be out there somewhere.

MR. ANDRESS: I don't know.

MS. VAIDA: Did you have an archeologist look at it? I know I saw in the prior papers that an archeologist will be reviewing the site in the spring.

1 MR. ANDRESS: We have a full archeological report and everything is fine. MR. LANE: For tonight this is just for discussion. We're not voting on this. I agree 3 with you that this plan is much better than the prior plan. You're just presenting this to 4 us to get our acceptance. It hinges on more on as you move forward. We say, this is a good 5 plan and then you go to your next step which you will seek the variance and then you will come back to us with your final plan; am I correct? MR. ANDRESS: We just didn't want to go to the Zoning Board of Appeals and spend the money and then come back and find out that the 9 board didn't like this design. We didn't expect that to happen but we wanted to come 10 here first and share this first. MR. LANE: But we shouldn't get hung up 11 on that portion of it. Like you said, this is a preferable plan and I like it a lot better 12 too. If the Zoning Board okays it, then we go from there. 13 MR. LACIVITA: How many more parking spots came out of this with the moving of the 14 building, do you know? 15 MR. ANDRESS: I think that we were in the 80-something area. 16 ACTING CHAIRMAN O'ROURKE: It was almost 30, I think. 17 MR. LACIVITA: So that will hopefully assist with the other concern of the off-18 street parking. ACTING CHAIRMAN O'ROURKE: And the 19 parking has been much better. MR. ANDRESS: And it's a little more 20 logical. Now we have parking that will really serve the clients coming into the building. 21 MS. VAIDA: What I'm wondering is if you don't use that house as a residence anymore 22 and it was going to be used as part of the 23 veterinary operation, is that legal or is that a problem? 24 MR. ANDRESS: We could use it for storage or training in it. Those are all conforming. 25 MR. DELAUGHTER: It may require an area variance if it doesn't meet the setback

1 requirements for the commercial use in that district. MR. ANDRESS: Possibly because it's a change of -3 From residential to MR. DELAUGHTER: commercial. There is a provision in that 4 situation if it doesn't conform to the current standards, a variance would be required. 5 MR. LANE: You chose to combine the lots. Would the plot, if it's ever sold down the road - because their combined - does that variance go along with the sale of property? MR. DELAUGHTER: The variance runs with the land. 9 One thing that I'd like to point out, if this does come back to the Planning Board, if 10 a variance is granted - there would be a requirement for a parking setback waiver at 11 two locations. One at the front and one along the National Grid power line. The front 12 typically requires a 15 foot parking setback. The side would be a 10 foot minimum and there 13 would be waivers required in both locations. ACTING CHAIRMAN O'ROURKE: What is that 14 front one now, Kevin? 15 MR. DELAUGHTER: If you looked at the light gray area - that's the existing 16 pavement. The dark gray is the proposed. It looks like the current is maybe 20 or 25 feet. 17 The proposed is about five, I would guess. MR. ANDRESS: Yes. What we're doing is to 18 a certain degree, we're taking advantage of Maxwell Road ending here (Indicating) so that 19 we can get a double load in. We're still within our property line. If this were to 20 become all green land - so you don't have the 21 traffic flowing so close to it. ACTING CHAIRMAN O'ROURKE: 22 I won't speak for anybody, but I don't have any problem with 23 either of those waivers. MS. VAIDA: Have you ever had any 24 complaints from the neighbors? This has been used for a dog walk, for instance, for awhile. 25 How do the neighbors feel about this?

1	MR. ANDRESS: I know that there are some
2	neighbors here that were here the last time that we did a presentation that did have some
	concerns.
3	MR. NARDACCI: I think that the new plan
4	addresses a lot of the concerns that the neighbors brought up. What's presented here is
5	a little more compact. It's not as direct an impact, visually. When you walk out of your
6	door there's not steel building or a back of a warehouse.
7	My feeling on the variance is that it's
8	status quo. I think that was the right term. You used the right term. I do understand the
Ü	concerns about encroaching to the residential.
9	The current configuration it's not cookie
10	cutter. There are a lot of different things going on here. I'm not as concerned about
	that. I think that the Zoning Board is going
11	to have to do their due diligence.
12	ACTING CHAIRMAN O'ROURKE: Moving forward
	<pre>would you have any problems with those waivers?</pre>
13	MR. NARDACCI: I don't actually. I don't
14	have a problem with that, especially with
	Maxwell Road ending. If Maxwell Road didn't
15	end that would be a different story.
16	I don't know about National Grid.
10	Kevin, have we had other situations where setbacks on a right of way - is that something
17	that has ever come up before as an issue and
	communications with Grid about stuff like
18	that?
19	MR. DELAUGHTER: I don't think that they
	have an issue, as long as there is no
20	encroachment on their right of way. It looks like again, there is probably a five foot
21	setback proposed versus the 10 that's normally
	required.
22	As far as the purpose of that setback
23	being a buffer area, you've got a National
۷.	Grid corridor largely serving that purpose.  MR. NARDACCI: No, I don't have a problem
24	with either of those.
	MR. LANE: I have no problem with the
25	waivers.

ACTING CHAIRMAN O'ROURKE: George?

1	MR. HOLLAND: Nothing at this time. ACTING CHAIRMAN O'ROURKE: Elena?
2	MS. VAIDA: I don't have any other
3	questions. I'm just not 100% sure about keeping the resident or residents. That
4	wouldn't be our problem. I was just thinking in the future, who would want to move in there
5	being so close?  ACTING CHAIRMAN O'ROURKE: There is
6	commercial value, but it's pretty landlocked.  MS. VAIDA: But if they keep it
7	residential - ACTING CHAIRMAN O'ROURKE: But it's zoned
8	commercial. All that land is zoned commercial.  MS. VAIDA: So if they have a variance
9	for that to stay a residence, can you change that back to commercial without any
10	applications to any department?  MR. ANDRESS: You could abandon the
11	residential use by taking it down.
12	MS. VAIDA: What if you didn't take it down?
13	MR. ANDRESS: I think that the question that would come into play would be that you
14	might have to go get a variance to use it for another use.
15	MR. NARDACCI: And right now there are separate deeds, right?
16	MR. ANDRESS: Right now there are three separate parcels. There is a parcel where the
17	vet currently is, there is the parcel behind it and then there is this large parcel here
18	(Indicating). All three will be combined together so that we don't have any of those
19	issues or items along the property lines.  ACTING CHAIRMAN O'ROURKE: Mike?
20	MR. SULLIVAN: The future cul-de-sac,
21	will that run all the way down to the Times Union or will that follow what will be old
22	Maxwell Road? Do you know?  MR. ANDRESS: It's my understanding that
23	it will be outside of the main access, but we'll be able to come down to this point
24	(Indicating).  MR. SULLIVAN: And the driveway will have
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	access?

1	MR. ANDRESS: We will have the driveway
2	coming in off of this (Indicating). For the
۷	people that really screwed up and forgot to go
3	the other way, I guess they could come through
	and come back over here (Indicating). We
4	certainly aren't going to be encouraging that.
	I think that the design of the whole Maxwell
5	Road onto Albany Shaker is to encourage people
	to stay on Maxwell and Albany Shaker and not
6	utilize this (Indicating).
	ACTING CHAIRMAN O'ROURKE: I see a
7	problem with that. There will be people
	cutting through.
8	MR. ANDRESS: I think for awhile, maybe.
_	But after they get used to it, they won't.
9	MR. NARDACCI: Between Maxwell and
1.0	Service Tree Road - there is no road there
10	anymore, right?
11	MR. ANDRESS: Right now there is.
T T	MR. NARDACCI: So the road will go to
12	where the first driveway is and then you can
12	take a left to that future connection to
13	Maxwell, right? If you come down Maxwell, you
_ •	can take a left onto this connection
14	
	(Indicating).
15	MR. ANDRESS: This is Maxwell down here.
	The town will be building this road -
16	MR. NARDACCI: But that's just an access.
	MR. ANDRESS: An access to get into the
17	site.
	ACTING CHAIRMAN O'ROURKE: He's talking
18	about the cul-de-sac on the other side.
1.0	MR. ANDRESS: That driveway there will
19	remain.
20	ACTING CHAIRMAN O'ROURKE: Anybody in the
20	audience wish to comment on this project?
21	FROM THE FLOOR: So, the dog walk is
	going to remain where it is, correct?
22	MR. ANDRESS: That's what we're
	proposing, yes.
23	FROM THE FLOOR: And that area there
	where the property line is, will those woods
24	remain there or are they going to take them
	down?
25	MR. ANDRESS: The woods will remain as
	much as we can keep them. Our initial grading

1	was trying to maintain a line back here
2	(Indicating). Our intension is to keep these trees here.
3	FROM THE FLOOR: That will be a barrier
J	then?  MR. ANDRESS: We want to keep some of the
4	natural trees there.
5	FROM THE FLOOR: What about the stormwater?
6	MR. ANDRESS: The way that this is being
7	designed is that we're hoping to deal with all the stormwater back in this area to try to
8	keep it away from back there. It's our intent to try not to go back that far.
9	FROM THE FLOOR: Because there are wetlands back there.
	MR. ANDRESS: The wetlands are behind
10	here. FROM THE FLOOR: Who is going to do the
11	plowing? Will the town do it in the winter?
12	MR. ANDRESS: We will be setting up plowing that way.
13	FROM THE FLOOR: The area in front of us - will that be plowed or no?
14	MR. ANDRESS: This whole area here will
15	be plowed (Indicating). I don't know what the arrangement is with the front of your house.
16	FROM THE FLOOR: The residential housing that you're talking about that you're going to
17	<pre>be incorporating into the three parcels into one -</pre>
18	MR. ANDRESS: It will be this house right here (Indicating).
19	FROM THE FLOOR: If that were to be torn down, would we be notified first? After this
20	is all done here, can that house be torn down?  MR. ANDRESS: That house can be torn down
21	at any time with a demolition permit. We would be able to put something back in that place
22	but we would have to come back to this board for site plan approval. It's not the intension
23	to tear it down. We don't want to do that.
24	It's a buffer but it's a source of income to them too.
25	FROM THE FLOOR: I'm a little concerned with the possible intent to tear that down. Tomorrow, if you get a demolition permit and

1	tear this all down and extend the dog walk
2	there, you're in my back yard.
_	MR. ANDRESS: That's why we're going to the Zoning Board of Appeals to allow it to be
3	residential. I would think that you would want
	to support the residential.
4	FROM THE FLOOR: So the dog walk isn't
5	going to expand any further?
J	MR. ANDRESS: There is no expansion
6	proposed for the dog walk.
	ACTING CHAIRMAN O'ROURKE: anything else?
7	(There was no response.)
0	ACTING CHAIRMAN O'ROURKE: I think that
8	you've got a gist of the board's feeling in
9	regard to the project. I think that overall,
<i>J</i>	you've done a Yeoman's job changing the plans to move forward.
10	MR. ANDRESS: And we appreciate that very
	much. Thanks.
11	much. Hanks.
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12	(Whereas the proceeding concerning the
13	above entitled matter was adjourned at
10	7:43 p.m.)
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18	CERTIFICATION
	CERTIFICATION
19	
2.0	I, NANCY STRANG-VANDEBOGART, Notary
20	Public in and for the State of New York,
21	hereby CERTIFY that the record taped and
	transcribed by me at the time and place noted
22	in the heading hereof is a true and accurate
	transcript of same, to the best of my ability
23	and belief.
24	
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25	
	NANCY STRANG-VANDEBOGART
	INNICI DIIMIG VANDEDOGANI

**Legal Transcription** 518-542-7699

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## Legal Transcription

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