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1	BOARD OF APPEALS ANNUAL TAX ASSESSMENT
2	MAY 15, 2017
3	PAUL H. MORRILL, JR., COMMUNITY CENTER
4	250 FIFTH STREET
5	DELAWARE CITY, DELAWARE
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8	BEFORE: STANLEY E. GREEN, Mayor
9	ROBERT MALINOWSKI, Vice Mayor
10	NATALIE GREEN, Council Member
11	PAUL D. FITZWATER, III, Council Member
12	MEGAN TITUS, Council Member
13	BETTY BARRETT, Council Member
14	ALSO PRESENT: RICHARD CATHCART, City Manager
15	MICHELLE HARTMAN, City Treasurer
16	BONNIE HANNA, City Secretary
17	DAVID BAYLOR, Police Chief
18	CHRIS GRIFFINS, Solicitor Representative
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please? Would you go up to that podium, state your name, and give the address so we can hear you?

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heard now.

THE WITNESS: Jeanne Sadot, 228 Hamilton

Street. I might have misunderstood what you were asking.

I had applied for a tax exemption, and I was denied and I was told I had to come -- I was told I had to come here to appeal. Is that something I should do later or now?

THE MAYOR: Okay. City Manager Cathcart, can you answer those questions and address that, please?

THE CITY MANAGER: Well, actually she applied for a senior discount for taxes, and that will be

THE MAYOR: Okay, so if you wish to proceed, please do.

JEANNE SADOT: Okay. Well, I was told that I was denied the application because I made too much money. And what happened was I had moved some funds from one account to another. I didn't receive any funds. It wasn't taxed. It was just a simple move from a 401K to another 401K, so I didn't receive the money, but that was counted as income. And when I asked about it, they said I had to come here and find out why.

THE MAYOR: All right. Mr. City Manager?
THE CITY MANAGER: Yes, thank you, Mr.

1	Mayor. What we are doing when we review these requests
2	for exemptions or reductions is we base our decision on a
3	tax return, which is, in this case, a 1040. And so a
4	1040 shows income of \$63,570, which was an IRA
5	distribution, so legally, it counts as income, and that's
6	what we based our decision on.

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JEANNE SADOT: That shows it's a transfer.

THE MAYOR: For those sitting here, Patty had the same situation as the lady that's speaking before us, and I'm sure others are as well. And when you get a rollover from -- in my case, it's from Citibank, and I have to claim it as income, no matter what I do with it. So unless there's some type of legal precedent that says differently, I don't know what it is.

JEANNE SADOT: I guess I don't understand why it's considered income when I did not receive any. All I did was close my account, and put it into another account. It was just a transfer of money. And that's why I'm misunderstanding. The paperwork I just handed to Mr. Cathcart, says that it was a -- it was a rollover and there was no money received by me.

THE MAYOR: Yeah, and I did the same thing, I rolled over.

JEANNE SADOT: It was 100 percent.

	rage 3
1	THE MAYOR: And every year, they give X
2	amount of dollars, and you have to claim that as income.
3	But I don't know your case, so I'm just sharing this with
4	the audience here so they understand.
5	THE CITY MANAGER: We go by the 1040.
6	It's pretty clear. It's pretty well cut and dry. The
7	1040 shows what the income is, and that distribution was
8	part of the income on the what was reported to the
9	federal the Feds on their 1040, the IRS.
10	COUNCIL MEMBER: What agency states
11	that taxes those as income? Is that the federal
12	government?
13	THE CITY MANAGER: Well, it's reported as
14	income on the 1040.
15	COUNCIL MEMBER: Right, so the federal
16	government says that.
17	THE CITY MANAGER: Yeah.
18	COUNCIL MEMBER: So all we're doing is
19	interpreting and reading the document.
20	THE CITY MANAGER: Correct.
21	COUNCIL MEMBER: Okay.
22	THE CITY MANAGER: And determining the
23	eligibility based on income. So with this income
24	COUNCIL MEMBER: Our method of seeing the

1   income is based on that tenent alone
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- THE CITY MANAGER: Correct.
- JEANNE SADOT: So even though you don't
- 4 receive the money, it's still considered income, and I
- 5 | can't even touch it right now because it's locked up in
- 6 my IRA.
- 7 | THE MAYOR: Well, you can't touch it, but
- 8 you can appeal on it. What is the -- Mr. Cathcart, what
- 9 is the appeal process?
- 10 THE CITY MANAGER: This is it.
- 11 THE MAYOR: This is it.
- 12 COUNCIL MEMBER: I have a question. Does
- it specify earned income?
- 14 THE CITY MANAGER: It's under the income
- 15 | column.
- 16 | COUNCIL MEMBER: Or is it just
- 17 | miscellaneous?
- 18 THE CITY MANAGER: One of the -- one of
- 19 | the lines for income starts with wages, obviously --
- 20 | COUNCIL MEMBER: Right.
- THE CITY MANAGER: -- and goes on down.
- 22 | It says IRA distributions. And there's report of money
- 23 that was as a result of the distribution, which is
- 24 | counted as income.

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1	COUNCIL MEMBER: Okay.
2	COUNCIL MEMBER: In other words, she
3	distributed it into another 401K, but she could have
4	distributed it to her account, right?
5	THE CITY MANAGER: Yeah.
6	COUNCIL MEMBER: So if we had proof of her
7	putting it in another IRA and not receiving it, we can't
8	change that.
9	MR. CATHCART: Let me just read that
10	section to you. It says, "Income, all income from
11	whatever sources derived, including but not limited to
12	realized capital gains, and in their entirety, pensions,
13	annuity, retirement benefits. Social Security disability
14	benefits, however, shall not be included as income."
15	COUNCIL MEMBER: Shall not be included?
16	THE CITY MANAGER: Is not included as
17	income.
18	COUNCIL MEMBER: Social Security and
19	disability is not included as income?
20	CITY TREASURER: No, it's not. If you get
21	the senior application, you do not count disability or
22	Social Security as income.
23	THE CITY MANAGER: So we base our
24	analysis, as far as adding up what the income is, based

1	on the tax return. That's the only thing we can base it
2	on. And on this particular tax return, the 1040, it
3	shows very clearly that there is an IRA distribution in
4	the income segment of the 1040.

COUNCIL MEMBER: As much as I'd love to overrule the federal government here, it seems like that's the column they put it in, and we interpret off of that document. I'm not going to try to persuade anyone, but it's more of a placement of that transfer on that document.

THE CITY MANAGER: Correct.

COUNCIL MEMBER: Our job in the city for the deduction is purely to interpret it, to read the document. All right.

THE CITY MANAGER: And apply it to the code.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER: Correct.

18 JEANNE SADOT: Okay. Well, thank you for

19 | listening.

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THE MAYOR: Okay, having said that, referring to the appeal, at this time, do we take a vote on it? So Madam Secretary, would you do a roll call vote, please?

24 CITY SECRETARY: Mrs. Green?

THE MAYOR: Adjourned.

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1	(The	meeting	concluded	at	7:23	p.m.)
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