



UNION COUNTY BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2017
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Bruce Bergen presided and called the meeting to order at 7:40pm.

ROLL CALL

Roll call showed Chairman Bruce H. Bergen, Vice Chairman Sergio Granados, Freeholder Angel G. Estrada, Freeholder Mohamed S. Jalloh, Freeholder Bette Jane Kowalski, Freeholder Alexander Mirabella and Freeholder Vernell Wright were in attendance, with Freeholder Linda Carter and Freeholder Christopher Hudak absent.

Also present were County Manager Alfred Faella, County Counsel Robert E. Barry, Esq. and Clerk of the Board James Pelletiere.

PRAYER AND SALUTE TO THE FLAG

The Prayer and Salute to the Flag were led by the Clerk of the Board.

STATEMENT OF COMPLIANCE WITH THE OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT

The statement of compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act was led by the Clerk of the Board.

APPROVAL OF COMMUNICATIONS

Note and File

Oath of Office: Construction Board of Appeals: Charles Medallis; Emergency Management Council: Michael McIntyre, Michael Redding and Christopher Scaturo; Fire Services Advisory Board: Joseph Signorello and Christopher Scaturo; Union County Commission on the Status of Women: Catherine Melchione; Union County Improvement Authority: Scott Huff; Union County Transportation Advisory Board: Marven Gersten.

Chairman Bergen called for a motion to approve the Communications. On a motion made by Freeholder Mirabella and seconded by Freeholder Wright, roll call showed seven members of the Board voted in the affirmative, with Freeholder Linda Carter and Freeholder Hudak absent.

PUBLIC COMMENT PORTION

The meeting is open to the public for the purpose of commenting on Resolutions being offered for adoption only.

Andrew Stilleson, of Westfield, made comments Resolution No. 2017-189. He thanked the Freeholder Board for approving the Mountain Biking Trail plan at Watchung, noting it was a testament to the Board's commitment to equal access to the trails.

He provided the Board with an update on the volunteer trail builders of Union County Jersey Off-Road Biking Association (JORBA), noting they held a meeting where 30 bikers showed up to take an active role in the Union County chapter. He added that they currently have 70 bikers signed up for volunteerism for trail maintenance. He thanked Director Zuber for his active participation in assisting their chapter.

Bruce Patterson, of Garwood, made comments or inquiries relative to a number of resolutions. Relative to Resolution No. 2017-189, he made comments relative to political donations. He inquired if the Master Plan has to be updated each time there is an upgrade to the plan. Relative to Resolution No. 2017-190, he made comments relative to political donations. Relative to Resolution No. 2017-191 & 2017-191, he made comments relative to political donations. Relative to Resolution No. 2017-197, he asked what was spent from last year's contract. Relative to Resolution No. 2017-205, he inquired as to what the lawsuit involved. He made comments relative to political donations. Relative to Resolution No. 2017-206, he inquired if there is a "lifetime health benefits plan" involved with the agreement. Relative to Resolution No. 2017-218, he offered his sympathies.

Freeholder Christopher Hudak entered the meeting.

Relative to Resolution No. 2017-197, Thomas Koundry, of the Prosecutor's Office, advised that the resolution provides for professional services including doctors, forensic scientists, expert witnesses, and interpreters. He advised that they expended approximately \$80,000-\$90,000 in last year's contract. He advised the amount will be determined by the need and usage.

Relative to Resolution No. 2017-205, County Counsel Barry advised that the matter included 52 plaintiffs relative to a FLSA matter (Fair Labor Standards) regarding overdue overtime claims.

Relative to Resolution No. 2017-206, County Manager Faella advised that there are no "lifetime healthcare benefits" associated with the contract.

Councilwoman Ileen Cuccaro, of Garwood, made comments relative to the Resolution No. 2017-184. She inquired as to why the County has an "acting" superintendent and inquired what happened to the superintendent. She asked the salary of the former superintendent.

Director Guzzo advised that the resolution provides a superintendent of the juvenile detention facility. He advised that it is a contract in which the County reimburses the County of Hudson for both the salary and benefit rate. He advised that the County was seeking a new superintendent when the County accepted the Hudson population into its facility, and that it was a logical choice to hire Mrs. Yost as she was the superintendent at the Hudson County facility. He noted that this amount is less than the previous line-item allocated.

RESOLUTIONS

The following Resolutions are being offered for adoption:

- 2017-178 FREEHOLDER LINDA CARTER:** Authorizing the County Manager to enter into a Professional agreement with four per diem pathologists to be available in the absence of the County Medical Examiner, at a cost of \$900.00 per autopsy, \$200.00 per external exam and \$600.00 per day for court testimony for the 2017 calendar year, in an amount not to exceed \$200,000.00.

On a motion made by Freeholder Kowalski and seconded by Freeholder Mirabella, roll call showed eight members voting in the affirmative, with Freeholder Carter absent.

- 2017-179 FREEHOLDER LINDA CARTER:** Authorizing the County Manager to enter into a twenty-four (24) month agreement with Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital, Rahway, NJ, to provide rental space for forensic examinations and autopsies for the period of January 1, 2017 through December 31, 2018, in an amount not to exceed \$60,000.00 for the first year, with a 2% increase for the remaining twelve(12) months.

On a motion made by Freeholder Kowalski and seconded by Freeholder Mirabella, roll call showed eight members voting in the affirmative, with Freeholder Carter absent.

- 2017-180 FREEHOLDER LINDA CARTER:** Authorizing the County Manager to enter into an agreement with Enforsys, Inc., 200 Lanidex Plaza Suite 2103, Parsippany, NJ, for a Records Management System (RMS) Services for the contract period of March 1, 2017 to February 28, 2019, in an amount not to exceed \$120,000.00.

On a motion made by Freeholder Kowalski and seconded by Freeholder Mirabella, roll call showed eight members voting in the affirmative, with Freeholder Carter absent.

- 2017-181 FREEHOLDER MOHAMED S. JALLOH:** Reappointing Harold Aguilar and Leslie Fanelli-Pavone as members to the Advisory Board on the Disabled for a term beginning January 1, 2017 through December 31, 2019.

On a motion made by Freeholder Kowalski and seconded by Freeholder Mirabella, roll call showed eight members voting in the affirmative, with Freeholder Carter absent.

- 2017-182 FREEHOLDER BETTE JANE KOWALSKI:** Amending Resolution Number 2016-1000, approving the 2017 CSBG Spending Plan, to reflect a grant award increase in the amount of \$15,011, for a new grand total of \$233,315, to be allocated as specified in the amended spending plan with no other changes to agreement.

On a motion made by Freeholder Kowalski and seconded by Freeholder Mirabella, roll call showed seven members voting in the affirmative, with Chairman Bergen abstaining and Freeholder Carter absent.

- 2017-183 FREEHOLDER BETTE JANE KOWALSKI:** Amending Resolution Number 2016-705, FY2014 SuperNOFA Continuum of Care (CoC) Spending Plan, to award a grant extension to the Covenant House/Supportive Housing subcontract 15-SUP-105 for the extension period of December 1, 2015 through March 31, 2017, as approved by

the US Department of Housing & Urban Development (HUD), allowing services to continue and funds to be fully expended with no change in funding and no other changes to spending plan.

On a motion made by Freeholder Kowalski and seconded by Freeholder Mirabella, roll call showed seven members voting in the affirmative, with Chairman Bergen abstaining and Freeholder Carter absent.

- 2017-184 FREEHOLDER BETTE JANE KOWALSKI:** Authorizing the County Manager to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding between the County of Union and the County of Hudson for the assignment of Diana Youst as Acting Superintendent of the Union County Juvenile Detention Center for the period of January 1, 2017 through December 31, 2017 in the amount not to exceed \$172,021.02.

On a motion made by Freeholder Kowalski and seconded by Freeholder Mirabella, roll call showed eight members voting in the affirmative, with Freeholder Carter absent.

- 2017-185 FREEHOLDER ALEXANDER MIRABELLA:** Amending the 2017 Temporary Budget Ch. 96 P.L. 1951 (N.J.S.A. 40A:4-20).

On a motion made by Freeholder Kowalski and seconded by Freeholder Mirabella, roll call showed eight members voting in the affirmative, with Freeholder Carter absent.

- 2017-186 FREEHOLDER VERNELL WRIGHT:** Authorizing the County Manager to award year two (2) contracts in accordance with the three (3) year 2016-2018 Area Plan in the total amount not to exceed \$1,361,459, pursuant to a Request for Proposal (RFP), for contract year two (2) period of January 1, 2017 through December 31, 2017, to deliver services to Union County residents 60 years of age or older and/or their caregivers with an option to renew contracts for one year; and further authorizing the County Manager to transfer funds among the agencies during the contract period should service needs change and/or if any of the agencies should fail to meet its contractual obligation.

On a motion made by Freeholder Kowalski and seconded by Freeholder Mirabella, roll call showed eight members voting in the affirmative, with Freeholder Carter absent.

- 2017-187 FREEHOLDER VERNELL WRIGHT:** Authorizing the County Manager to award Union County Youth Services Commission Spending Plan subcontracts to provide program services based on the Juvenile Justice Commission Points of Continuum: Prevention, Diversion, Detention, Disposition and Reentry in the total amount not to exceed \$511,656 for the grant period of January 1, 2017 through December 31, 2017, and further authorizing the transfer among the funded agencies/municipalities during the contract period should service needs change and/or if any of the funded agencies/municipalities fails to meet its contractual obligation, upon approval by the Juvenile Justice Commission.

On a motion made by Freeholder Kowalski and seconded by Freeholder Mirabella, roll call showed eight members voting in the affirmative, with Freeholder Carter absent.

- 2017-188 FREEHOLDER VERNELL WRIGHT:** Appointing Ellen Steinberg as a member to the Senior Citizen Disabled Resident Transportation Advisory Board for a term beginning January 1, 2017 through December 31, 2019.

On a motion made by Freeholder Kowalski and seconded by Freeholder Mirabella, roll call showed eight members voting in the affirmative, with Freeholder Carter absent.

- 2017-189 VICE CHAIRMAN SERGIO GRANADOS:** Amending Resolution Number 2014-673, a Professional Planning and Designing Service contract, awarded through an RFP process to CME Associates of Parlin, New Jersey associated with the Watchung Reservation Trails Master Plan for an amount not to exceed \$16,100 for a new contract amount not to exceed \$59,100. (Union County Engineering Project Number 2014-024)

On a motion made by Freeholder Kowalski and seconded by Freeholder Mirabella, roll call showed eight members voting in the affirmative, with Freeholder Carter absent.

- 2017-190 VICE CHAIRMAN SERGIO GRANADOS:** Authorizing the County Manager to award a Professional Service Contract, through a Request for Proposal (RFP) process, to Maser Consulting, PA, of Red Bank, New Jersey to provide Engineering Design, Construction Administration and Inspection Services for a parking lot and turf improvements for the Wheeler Park Pool & Turf Improvement Project for an amount not to exceed \$163,379. (Union County Engineering Project Number 2014-029)

On a motion made by Freeholder Kowalski and seconded by Freeholder Mirabella, roll call showed eight members voting in the affirmative, with Freeholder Carter absent.

- 2017-191 VICE CHAIRMAN SERGIO GRANADOS:** Authorizing the County Manager to award a Professional Engineering Service Contract, through a Request for Proposal (RFP) process, to Neglia Engineering Associates, of Clark, New Jersey to provide Engineering Design, Construction Administration and Inspection Services for the Replacement of Two Pedestrian Bridges at Conant & Nomahegan Parks for an amount not to exceed \$164,212. (Union County Engineering Project Number 2016-038)

On a motion made by Freeholder Kowalski and seconded by Freeholder Mirabella, roll call showed eight members voting in the affirmative, with Freeholder Carter absent.

- 2017-192 VICE CHAIRMAN SERGIO GRANADOS:** Authorizing the County Manager to award a Professional Engineering Service Contract, through a Request for Proposal (RFP) process, to Neglia Engineering Associates, of Clark, New Jersey to provide Engineering Design, Construction Administration and Inspection Services for the

Rahway Park Pool Diving Tank Demolition for an amount not to exceed \$29,057. (Union County Engineering Project Number 2017-001)

On a motion made by Freeholder Kowalski and seconded by Freeholder Mirabella, roll call showed eight members voting in the affirmative, with Freeholder Carter absent.

- 2017-193 VICE CHAIRMAN SERGIO GRANADOS:** Amending Resolution Number 2016-454, a Professional Engineering Service Contract with Remington, Vernick & Arango Engineers to provide Design, Construction Administration and Inspection Services for the Green Lane Park Improvement Project in the Township of Union, to provide a topographical survey (Block 301, Lot 25.01) in an amount not to exceed \$7,500.00 for a new contract amount not to exceed \$206,835.00. (Union County Engineering Project Number 2015-017)

On a motion made by Freeholder Kowalski and seconded by Freeholder Mirabella, roll call showed eight members voting in the affirmative, with Freeholder Carter absent.

- 2017-194 VICE CHAIRMAN SERGIO GRANADOS:** Resolution amending resolution Number 2017-83, resolution to enter into an Agreement with the New Jersey Symphony Orchestra to perform a Concert on Friday, June 23, 2017, clarifying the site of the concert to be at Oak Ridge Park.

On a motion made by Freeholder Kowalski and seconded by Freeholder Mirabella, roll call showed eight members voting in the affirmative, with Freeholder Carter absent.

- 2017-195 CHAIRMAN BRUCE H. BERGEN:** Authorizing the County Manager, through the Union County Prosecutor's Office, to enter into an agreement for the purchase of Variable Message Signs from Traffic Safety Service, South Plainfield, New Jersey, in an amount not to exceed \$32,000.

On a motion made by Freeholder Kowalski and seconded by Freeholder Mirabella, roll call showed eight members voting in the affirmative, with Freeholder Carter absent.

- 2017-196 CHAIRMAN BRUCE H. BERGEN:** Authorizing the County Manager, through the Union County Prosecutor's Office, to purchase surveillance equipment from Special Services Group, LLC, Denair, CA in an amount not to exceed \$21,963.00.

On a motion made by Freeholder Kowalski and seconded by Freeholder Mirabella, roll call showed eight members voting in the affirmative, with Freeholder Carter absent.

- 2017-197 CHAIRMAN BRUCE H. BERGEN:** Authorizing the County Manager through the Union County Prosecutor's Office, to enter into a Professional Services Contract with various experts for litigation support and transcription services for the period of January 1, 2017 through December 31, 2017 in an amount not to exceed \$100,000.00.

On a motion made by Freeholder Kowalski and seconded by Freeholder Mirabella, roll call showed eight members voting in the affirmative, with Freeholder Carter absent.

- 2017-198** **CHAIRMAN BRUCE H. BERGEN:** Authorizing the County Manager, through Union County Prosecutor's Office, to enter into an agreement with IT for Professionals, Inc., Hazlet, New Jersey to provide Database and Server Support for existing servers and database applications in an amount not to exceed \$19,800.00.

On a motion made by Freeholder Kowalski and seconded by Freeholder Mirabella, roll call showed eight members voting in the affirmative, with Freeholder Carter absent.

- 2017-199** **CHAIRMAN BRUCE H. BERGEN:** Authorizing the County Manager to enter into contracts with Unique Cruise & Travel, Garwood, New Jersey and Gateway Travel Services, Inc, W. Caldwell, New Jersey, as the vendors to provide Travel Agent Services to all County entities pursuant to the exception for bidding: N.J.S.A. 40A:11-5 (1)(cc) for travel and conferences at a not to exceed figure of \$65,000. (This figure represents a pass through for the vendor to buy travel services on our behalf). The actual profit made by vendor is estimated at not to exceed \$3,000.

On a motion made by Freeholder Kowalski and seconded by Freeholder Mirabella, roll call showed eight members voting in the affirmative, with Freeholder Carter absent.

- 2017-200** **CHAIRMAN BRUCE H. BERGEN:** Authorizing the County Manager to approve the Union County Workforce Development Board Strategic Plan, 2016-2020.

On a motion made by Freeholder Kowalski and seconded by Freeholder Mirabella, roll call showed eight members voting in the affirmative, with Freeholder Carter absent.

- 2017-201** **CHAIRMAN BRUCE H. BERGEN:** Authorizing the County Manager to enter into a Uniform Shared Services and Consolidated Act, N.J.S.A. 40A:65-1 et seq. agreement with Hudson County to provide custody and care to its juvenile detainees at the Union County Juvenile Detention Center at a per diem rate of \$240 for Year 1 - 2017, \$245 for Year 2 - 2018, \$250 for Year 3 - 2019, \$255 for Year 4 - 2020, and \$255 for Year 5 - 2021, overtime rate for emergency transportation in the amount of \$35 per hour, per diem freeze years 1 & 5, with Hudson County guaranteeing payment for a minimum of 20 secure beds for the five (5) year period of February 20, 2017 through February 19, 2022.

On a motion made by Freeholder Kowalski and seconded by Freeholder Mirabella, roll call showed eight members voting in the affirmative, with Freeholder Carter absent.

- 2017-202** **CHAIRMAN BRUCE H. BERGEN:** Authorizing the County Manager to accept and expend \$167,034 from the Department of Justice's 2016 Edward Byrne Memorial Grant Program for the purpose of providing local law enforcement agencies with the necessary training and equipment to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of the criminal justice system.

On a motion made by Freeholder Kowalski and seconded by Freeholder Mirabella, roll call showed eight members voting in the affirmative, with Freeholder Carter absent.

- 2017-203 CHAIRMAN BRUCE H. BERGEN:** Authorizing the County Manager to enter into a contract with Spec. Rescue International, Virginia Beach, Virginia, to provide Structural Collapse Technician Course to 66 members of the Metro Urban Search and Rescue (MUSAR) Task Force from the Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) Region, through the 2016 UASI Grant, in an amount not to exceed \$115,570.

On a motion made by Freeholder Kowalski and seconded by Freeholder Mirabella, roll call showed eight members voting in the affirmative, with Freeholder Carter absent.

- 2017-204 CHAIRMAN BRUCE H. BERGEN:** Authorizing the County Manager to enter into a contract with Spec. Rescue International Virginia Beach, VA, to provide Trench Rescue Training to 99 members of the Metro Urban Search and Rescue (MUSAR) Task Force from the Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) Region, through the 2016 UASI Grant, in an amount not to exceed \$92,865.00.

On a motion made by Freeholder Kowalski and seconded by Freeholder Mirabella, roll call showed eight members voting in the affirmative, with Freeholder Carter absent.

- 2017-205 CHAIRMAN BRUCE H. BERGEN:** Amending Resolution Number 2016-871, to increase the appropriation to Bauch, Zucker, Hatfield, LLC of Springfield, New Jersey in the matter entitled Barbara Egger v. UC, et als. in an amount not to exceed \$20,000.00 for a sum not to exceed \$140,000.00.

On a motion made by Freeholder Kowalski and seconded by Freeholder Mirabella, roll call showed eight members voting in the affirmative, with Freeholder Carter absent.

- 2017-206 CHAIRMAN BRUCE H. BERGEN:** Authorizing the County Manager to sign any and all documents necessary to enter into a Collective Bargaining Agreement with the Teamsters Local 102--Jail Professionals, effective January 1, 2013 through December 31, 2017.

On a motion made by Freeholder Kowalski and seconded by Freeholder Mirabella, roll call showed eight members voting in the affirmative, with Freeholder Carter absent.

FREEHOLDER SPONSORED RESOLUTIONS

- 2017-207 FREEHOLDER LINDA CARTER:** Congratulating Ivy Visions, Inc. Of Theta Phi Omega Chapter, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. on their African-American History Celebration.

On a motion made by Freeholder Kowalski and seconded by Freeholder Mirabella, roll call showed eight members voting in the affirmative, with Freeholder Carter absent.

- 2017-208 FREEHOLDER LINDA CARTER:** Congratulating and acknowledging Jerseyland Park, Community Center, Inc. as they celebrate Black History Month on February 18, 2017.

On a motion made by Freeholder Kowalski and seconded by Freeholder Mirabella, roll call showed eight members voting in the affirmative, with Freeholder Carter absent.

- 2017-209 FREEHOLDER LINDA CARTER:** Congratulating and commending the Omicron Chi Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. for their efforts in community service in Plainfield and throughout of the County of Union.

On a motion made by Freeholder Kowalski and seconded by Freeholder Mirabella, roll call showed eight members voting in the affirmative, with Freeholder Carter absent.

- 2017-210 FREEHOLDER MOHAMED S. JALLOH, FREEHOLDER VERNELL WRIGHT & CHAIRMAN BRUCE H. BERGEN:** Congratulating the Rotary Club of Union upon their 75th anniversary celebration on February 24, 2017.

On a motion made by Freeholder Kowalski and seconded by Freeholder Mirabella, roll call showed eight members voting in the affirmative, with Freeholder Carter absent.

- 2017-211 FREEHOLDER ALEXANDER MIRABELLA, CHAIRMAN BRUCE H. BERGEN & FREEHOLDER BETTE JANE KOWALSKI:** Congratulating and commending the efforts of the Be Smart Lead for Union County, Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America.

On a motion made by Freeholder Kowalski and seconded by Freeholder Mirabella, roll call showed eight members voting in the affirmative, with Freeholder Carter absent.

- 2017-212 FREEHOLDER ALEXANDER MIRABELLA:** Extending the Board's deepest condolences to the family of Joseph Agone upon his passing on February 16, 2017.

On a motion made by Freeholder Kowalski and seconded by Freeholder Mirabella, roll call showed eight members voting in the affirmative, with Freeholder Carter absent.

- 2017-213 FREEHOLDER ALEXANDER MIRABELLA:** Extending the Board's deepest condolences to the family of Louis Cassella upon his passing.

On a motion made by Freeholder Kowalski and seconded by Freeholder Mirabella, roll call showed eight members voting in the affirmative, with Freeholder Carter absent.

- 2017-214 VICE CHAIRMAN SERGIO GRANADOS & THE ENTIRE BOARD:** Congratulating Freeholder Linda Carter upon being named Woman of the Year by the Plainfield Chapter of the Zeta Phi Beta Sorority on March 11, 2017.

On a motion made by Freeholder Kowalski and seconded by Freeholder Mirabella, roll call showed eight members voting in the affirmative, with Freeholder Carter absent.

- 2017-215 VICE CHAIRMAN SERGIO GRANADOS & FREEHOLDER ALEXANDER MIRABELLA:** Congratulating Dan and Katie Misuraca on the Grand Opening of the Red, White and Que Smokeshack in Scotch Plains, New Jersey.

On a motion made by Freeholder Kowalski and seconded by Freeholder Mirabella, roll call showed eight members voting in the affirmative, with Freeholder Carter absent.

- 2017-216 VICE CHAIRMAN SERGIO GRANADOS, FREEHOLDER CHRISTOPHER HUDAK & FREEHOLDER ALEXANDER MIRABELLA:** Congratulating Joseph John Di Girolamo (Giuseppe Giovanni) upon his 100th birthday celebration.

On a motion made by Freeholder Kowalski and seconded by Freeholder Mirabella, roll call showed eight members voting in the affirmative, with Freeholder Carter absent.

- 2017-217 VICE CHAIRMAN SERGIO GRANADOS, FREEHOLDER ANGEL G. ESTRADA & FREEHOLDER BETTE JANE KOWALSKI:** Congratulating the Portuguese Instructive Social Club, Inc. of Elizabeth upon their 95th anniversary celebration on March 18, 2017.

On a motion made by Freeholder Kowalski and seconded by Freeholder Mirabella, roll call showed eight members voting in the affirmative, with Freeholder Carter absent.

- 2017-218 CHAIRMAN BRUCE H. BERGEN & THE ENTIRE BOARD:** Extending the Board's deepest condolences to the family of Charlotte DeFilippo, former Union County Democratic Chairwoman upon her passing on February 22, 2017.

On a motion made by Freeholder Kowalski and seconded by Freeholder Mirabella, roll call showed eight members voting in the affirmative, with Freeholder Carter absent.

PUBLIC COMMENT PORTION

This meeting is open to the public comment on any governmental issue that a member of the public feels may be of concern to the residents of the county.

Mike Wadduck, of Summit, made comments relative to his request for the Board to submit a flat budget. He noted that the County tax has risen 21% over the past five years, which currently represents 30% of Summit's tax bill. He noted the lower increases from the City

(1.4%) and School Board (4.8%) over the past 5 years. He read a statement from a Summit resident that could not attend the meeting regarding his concerns over taxes.

Martha (inaudible), of Elizabeth, represented the CWA Local 1080, and made comments relative to their ongoing contract negotiations, commenting on wages, the recent removal of the healthcare incentive program and temporary disability insurance.

Chairman Bergen noted that the County has a long standing policy of not negotiating contracts in public. He thanked her for her comments.

Council President Michael McTernan, of Summit, thanked both Chairman Bergen and Freeholder Mirabella for their kind words regarding Frank Lehr, and thanked the Board for passing the resolution recognizing his contributions to the City of Summit and the County of Union. He thanked the Board for working with the City and noted the major services it received from the County. He made comments relative to the affordability of the County taxes and encouraged the Board to stay within the spirit of the 2% tax law.

James M. Bennet, of Summit, made comments relative the County budget. He made a correlation between tenant and property homeowner voters and how they accept and perceive increased property taxes.

John Henry Barr, of Summit, expressed his condolences to Freeholder Hudak upon the loss of his mother, and to the Board upon the loss of their former Chairwoman. He stated his involvement in the community and his membership in the Republican Party, noting that he served as Councilman, as a Republican, in the Township of Clark. He admitted that, while he never actively campaigned for an appointment, he had always wanted to serve on an appointed Board. He noted that his Republican Party had never made such an appointment, and was surprised the Freeholder Board had recently appointed him to the Vocational-Technical School Board. He thanked the Board for the opportunity to serve the community, and said he looks forward to an open dialogue with the Board. He advised the Board of his first impression of the Vocational-Technical Schools, and commended the work of its Superintendent Peter Capodice.

Steven Spur, of Summit, made comments relative to the County Budget, noting his concerns of increasing taxes. He said the Board that he and his family moved to Summit and recently welcomed their new born child. He advised he wants the ability to continue to living in Union County and urged the Board to control the cost of county government.

Bruce Patterson, of Garwood, made comments relative to the county budget. He made comments relative to the success of the City of Summit's ability to adopt budgets with a minimal increase. He made comments relative to Peter Capodice thanking the tax payers. He made comments relative to the Executive Budget. He made comments relative the Union County "Walk on Washington", inquiring of the benefit of the walk. He made comments relative to his previous comments regarding the re-evaluation issue confronting the municipalities.

Chairman Bergen advised the Chamber of Commerce's "Walk on Washington" cost was \$1,400, not \$15,000. He told the public of the networking opportunities the event provided, noting he was able to speak with elected officials, businesses, utilities and insurance company representatives regarding countywide concerns.

Sandra Liza, of Summit, made comments relative to the County budget, encouraging the Board to maintain a flat tax. She made comments relative to the City's diverse socio-economic population, as depicted by the Sage Eldercare and County's Meals on Wheels program. She made comments relative to governmental efficiencies.

Kevin Mack, of Summit, made comments relative to the County budget, encouraging the Board to maintain a flat tax. He advised the Board that his taxes have increased nearly 18% since he moved to Summit in 2011. He advised he moved out of New York City due to affordability and is concerned he will have to move out of Summit for the same reason. He encouraged the Board to not approve contracts to individuals who make political contributions to Union County elections.

George (inaudible), of Summit, stated that he was a senior at Summit High School. He made comments relative to the City's school budget's minimal increases, and listed the number of improvements and extracurricular activities that have either been delayed or funded privately. He urged the Board to adopt a flat tax.

Barbara Stucci, of Summit, made comments relative to the County budget, encouraging the Board to identify the Summit taxpayer's portion and spend their tax money wisely. She encouraged the Board to stay within the 2% cap. She made comments relative to the City's county taxes as they compared to the costs of the City's police, fire and EMS services.

John Burry, of Kenilworth, made comments relative to how he felt the Board could reduce taxes. He suggested the County move to the State health benefits program. He made comments relative to the utilization of the Open Space Trust Fund towards employee salaries. He made comments relative to contracts with those who make political contributions. He suggested the County close the Union County Improvement Authority.

Chairman Bergen stated that the Board complies with all the pay to play laws as they apply to the County budget and its hiring practices. He noted that any implication to the contrary is absolutely false.

FREEHOLDER REPORTS AND COMMENTS

Chairman Bergen called upon County Manager Faella to make a statement relative to the introduction of his Executive Budget.

County Manager Faella advised that he was releasing his Executive Budget, and noted that it is a starting point, as the Freeholder Fiscal Committee will be reviewing and amending before final adoption. He stated that he was pleased to advise that the County received a AAA Bond Rating, the highest attainable, from Moody's. He stated that Moody's report cited "the County's strong financial team that has worked hard to turn around the County's finances, and reflects sound management and budgeting practices that are supported by fixed administrative policies and practices." He noted the fiscal turbulence, specifically the State's record ten downgrades since 2009. He made comments relative to Union County's surging economic and real estate market; noting the 2.7% increase in the County's ratable base or nearly \$1.8 billion in net valuation over 2016. He made comments on other positive revenue areas of the budget. He made comments relative to areas where the County was able to make departmental cuts to the budget, noting the reduction of \$1 million in overtime costs from the Department of Corrections. He made comments relative to Moody's citation

of the County's ability to manage its debt levels. He stated that the Executive Budget is in the amount of \$503.2 million; \$4.8 million less than his 2016 Executive Budget. He advised that the Executive Budget meets the State Cap, and would increase taxes 2.9% over the 2016 budget. He made comments relative to State reductions in funding that the County continues to fund. He made comments relative to proposed increased funding to the County College and Vocational-Technical Schools, park improvements, and the continuation of the infrastructure grant program. He made comments on other programs funded through the Executive Budget; including Veteran services, heroin/opioid addiction treatment programs, and senior programs. He stated that he looks forward to working with this Board in achieving another successful fiscal year in 2017.

Chairman Bergen thanked the County Manager and the Finance Department, and all the Directors for producing the Executive Budget.

Chairman Bergen made comments relative to the recent passing of former Union County Freeholder, UCIA Executive Director and longtime Union County Democratic Chairman Charlotte DeFilippo. He made comments relative to their friendship and her years as a political mentor. He made comments relative to her impact on the betterment of the community; noting the many infrastructure projects built under her tenure as Executive Director and of her impact on the various policies of local, county, state and national government.

Freeholder Kowalski made comments relative to her political and personal friendship with Charlotte DeFilippo; noting that she operated on the basis of providing for all people of Union County, and held the Board to the highest of ideals.

Freeholder Kowalski thanked all the speakers for participating in the evening's meeting; particularly those from the City of Summit. She assured the public that the Board is listening to their concerns. She made comments relative to the many items that the County is responsible to fund which municipalities are not, but promised the Board will do its best to make cuts. She noted that a flat tax seems unlikely and unattainable. She thanked them for their thoughtful presentation of this issue to the Board.

Freeholder Kowalski noted that Freeholder Carter was not available for tonight's meeting, but made comments relative to the County's Black History Month celebrations on her behalf. She commented on how Union County is a mosaic of many ethnicities, and all provide a benefit to the community.

Freeholder Hudak made comments relative to the passing of Charlotte DeFilippo, noting her tremendous record of public service.

Freeholder Hudak thanked those from Summit for their comments on the County budget. He made comments relative to the strides the County has made in obtaining the AAA Bond Rating. He made comments relative to the state's equalization formula that takes into account each municipality's residential and industrial ratable base; noting that in 2016, Linden was the recipient of the highest increase in taxes based on the State equation.

Freeholder Hudak made comments relative to the services provided by the County, specifically towards those projects defunded, or reduced in funding, by the State. He spoke to the Board's decision to provide adequate funding for those services as opposed to

allowing for those services to go to the wayside. He made comments relative to the County's continued investment of the Vocational-Technical schools and coordinated services in public safety. He made comments relative to the number of mandated services the Board is obligated to fund; noting that the Family Courthouse Project is not a "made-up" project, but rather one that is a result of a State order.

Freeholder Hudak stated that he was offended by the remarks of one of the speakers insinuating a correlation between tenants and property homeowners and how they accept and perceive increased property taxes.

Chairman Bergen thanked Freeholder Hudak for his insightful and comprehensive remarks.

Freeholder Estrada thanked the CWA employees for their comments and is aware of their concerns. He stated that he appreciates their work and believes an agreement will be made in the future. He made comments relative to the quality of coverage under the County's health plan and as it compares to the State plan.

Freeholder Estrada made comments relative to the commitment of the proponents of the bike trails, and commended Director Zuber on his job in addressing their concerns.

Freeholder Estrada made comments relative to the County's budget and the state equalization table, noting that the County has met all state required cap laws. He also advised that the County adheres to every pay to play law as per state guidelines. He made comments relative to the re-evaluation formula and various services provided countywide.

Freeholder Jalloh thanked all the speakers for participating in the evening's meeting. He stated that it was wonderful to see the young people from the Vocational-Technical schools, and stated that the county's investment in education is money well spent. He thanked the members of the CWA for stating their concerns, and advised that while it is not the practice of the Board to negotiate in public at a Freeholder meeting, he knows that people are working diligently to come to a resolution. He thanked the residents of Summit for their comments; noting that even if a flat tax were possible, the increase in their property values would result in an increase in their tax evaluation. He assured the public that the Board would do its best to find a balance between providing services, paying for salaries and being mindful of the tax rate.

Freeholder Mirabella thanked all the Summit residents for their comments, and stated that he hears their concerns and considers them when trying to find a balance between services and cost. He commended Freeholder Hudak for his responses and comments relative to the budget. He advised that the Fiscal Committee meetings on the budget would be held on Tuesday, February 28th at Galloping Hill at 5pm; Thursday, March 9th in the Freeholder Meeting Room at 5pm; and Monday, March 13th at the Union County Vocational Technical School at 5pm. He made comments relative to the County obtaining a AAA Bond rating, only the 6th County in the State of New Jersey to achieve such a rating; noting that the County didn't seek out the rating, but rather Moody's proactively rated the County.

Freeholder Mirabella made comments relative to the passing of Charlotte DeFilippo, remembering her as an outstanding leader and dear friend who provided counsel over many years. He stated that, whether you agreed with her or not, everyone agreed they would want her on their side because of her level of passion.

Freeholder Wright stated that the Board will continue the process of reviewing the obstacles that face the County and finding the solutions to ensure that the County of Union continues to be a place where everyone is proud of.

Freeholder Wright thanked the Board for considering her for the Chester Holmes Award, noting that she is honored and appreciates the honor they bestowed upon her.

Freeholder Wright made comments relative to Women's History Month Yoga program through the Department of Human Services' Office on Women at the Deserted Village of Feltville in the Watchung Reservation. She noted that along with yoga, the evening includes guided meditation and a wellness and self-care session by Arielle Cassidy of the Juice House in Garwood.

Vice Chairman Granados thanked the speakers for their participation in the evening's meeting. He assured all that the Board is listening to their concerns. He advised that he is looking forward to all of the Fiscal Meetings on the Budget to ensure the Board is looking closely at the budget, and will try to find areas where cuts can be made.

Vice Chairman Granados advised the Department of Parks and Recreation will host a meeting to present a Trails Master Plan for the Watchung Reservation on March 7th at 7pm at the Trailside Nature & Science Center, noting the plan includes the construction of 13.5 miles of new trails, which will be restricted to mountain biking only.

County Manager Faella thanked all for coming out to the evening's meeting, especially the CWA employees; noting that he respects and appreciates the work they do every day, and looked forward to working with them to come to a fair and equitable contract.

County Counsel Barry made comments relative to the passing of Charlotte DeFilippo, whom he considered a friend and mentor.

Chairman Bergen stated that the Board will look closely at the Executive Budget to find areas where cuts can be made.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

To the extent known, the following item will be discussed in Executive Session:

- 1) Attorney- Client privileged communications and discussion of legal issues relative to Executive Orders and interaction with the Immigration and Customs Enforcement Agency of the Department of Homeland Security; and
- 2) Attorney Client privileged communication relative to on-going litigation in the matter of In Re Vioxx Products Liability Litigation.

County Counsel Barry stated that pursuant to provisions of the Open Public Meetings Act, a public body may enter into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing certain enumerated subjects.

He stated that this Board wished to enter into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing Attorney- Client privileged communications and discussion of legal issues relative to Executive Orders and interaction with the Immigration and Customs Enforcement Agency of the Department of Homeland Security, and Attorney Client privileged communication relative to on-going litigation in the matter of In Re Vioxx Products Liability Litigation.

He stated that the minutes of the Executive Session shall be separated from the minutes of the Open Public Session and that the minutes of the Executive Session, redacted as appropriate and necessary, shall be available in approximately 30 days. He stated that the Clerk of the Board shall retain the original minutes until such time as the confidential limitations have been removed, at which time they shall be made available.

He stated that upon affirmative vote of the majority of the members present, the Board may enter Executive Session and upon the Board's return, it will not take formal action on the matters discussed.

Chairman Bergen asked for a motion to enter Executive Session. On a motion made by Freeholder Mirabella and seconded by Freeholder Kowalski, roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative, with Freeholder Carter absent.

Chairman Bergen asked for a motion to return to the Regular Meeting. On a motion made by Freeholder Mirabella and seconded by Freeholder Hudak, roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative, with Freeholder Carter not present.

ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Bergen called for a motion to adjourn.

On a motion made by Freeholder Mirabella and seconded by Freeholder Kowalski, a voice vote showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative, with Freeholder Carter not present. Meeting was adjourned at 9:43pm.

UNION COUNTY BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS 2017 MEETING SCHEDULE

Please note that meetings are regularly held on Thursday evenings. Agenda Setting Sessions and Regular Meetings are held at 7:00pm in the Freeholders' Meeting Room, Administration Building, 10 Elizabethtown Plaza, 6th Floor, Elizabeth, New Jersey, unless otherwise specified. In the event an Agenda Setting Session and Regular Meeting are held on the same night, the Agenda Setting Session will commence at 7:00 pm and the Regular Meeting will commence as soon as possible after the Agenda Setting Session.

Persons requiring a sign language interpreter should contact the Office of the Clerk of the Board at 908-527-4140.

REORGANIZATION MEETING - SUNDAY, JANUARY 8, 2017 at 12:00 pm Assignment Judge Karen M. Cassidy's Courtroom, 2 Broad Street, Elizabeth, NJ

AGENDA SETTING SESSION

January 19, 2017

February 2, 2017
February 23, 2017

March 2, 2017
March 16, 2017

April 6, 2017
April 20, 2017

May 4, 2017
May 25, 2017

June 1, 2017
June 15, 2017

July 13, 2017

August 10, 2017

September 7, 2017
September 28, 2017

October 5, 2017
October 19, 2017

November 9, 2017
(Tuesday)
November 30, 2017

December 14, 2017

REGULAR MEETINGS

January 26, 2017

February 9, 2017
February 23, 2017

March 9, 2017
March 23, 2017

April 13, 2017
April 27, 2017

May 18, 2017
May 25, 2017

June 8, 2017
June 22, 2017

July 20, 2017

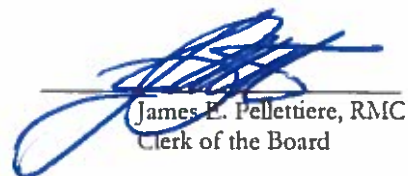
August 17, 2017

September 14, 2017
September 28, 2017

October 12, 2017
October 26, 2017

November 21, 2017

December 7, 2017
December 21, 2017


James E. Pelletiere, RMC
Clerk of the Board