

## UNION COUNTY BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS

THURSDAY, APRIL 14, 2016  
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING

Chairman Bruce H. Bergen presided and called the meeting to order at 7:05pm. Roll call showed Vice Chairman Sergio Granados, Freeholder Linda Carter, Freeholder Angel G. Estrada, Freeholder Christopher Hudak, Freeholder Mohamed S. Jalloh, Freeholder Bette Jane Kowalski, Freeholder Alexander Mirabella and Freeholder Vernell Wright were in attendance.

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

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

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

### **PRESENTATION FROM THE BOARD**

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Chairman Bergen called upon Freeholder Hudak to make a presentation to the Linden High School Basketball NJSLAA Boys Group 4 Champions.

Freeholder Hudak said it was great pleasure having and recognizing the Linden High School Basketball Team at the Freeholder meeting. He congratulated them with their victory of Group 4 State Champion making it all the way to the finals tournament. He called upon Coach Colicchio to join him and said that he is from a well-known family from Union County and in his own right he has done a tremendous job as an educator, leader in our school system and a fantastic basketball coach.

Freeholder Hudak read the Resolution aloud.

Coach Phil Colicchio thanked the Board for having them. He in Elizabeth and his father worked at the old Union County jail.

Coach Colicchio introduced his assistant coaches and the basketball players and thanked and called upon and introduced the scorekeepers.

### **APPROVAL OF COMMUNICATIONS**

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Note and File

Chairman Bergen called for a motion to approve the Communications. On a motion made by Freeholder Kowalski and seconded by Freeholder Mirabella, roll call showed nine members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

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**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

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Thursday, September 3, 2015 - Executive Session

Thursday, September 17, 2015 - Executive Session

Thursday, December 3, 2015 - Executive Session

Thursday, December 10, 2015 - Executive Session

On a motion made by Freeholder Mirabella and seconded by Freeholder Kowalski, roll call showed nine members of the Board voting in the affirmative for the Executive Minutes of September 3, 2015; eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative for the September 17, 2015 Executive Minutes with Freeholder Carter abstaining; eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative with Freeholder Hudak abstaining from December 3, 2015 Executive Minutes and nine members of the Board voted in the affirmative on the December 10, 2015 Executive Minutes.

Chairman Bergen stated before he opens the meeting to the public to comment on Resolutions we are having two explanations by Fiscal Committee Chair Freeholder Alexander Mirabella to discuss the County Budget which is being introduced tonight.

Freeholder Mirabella stated the following:

Following an extensive review of the 2016 budget over the past few months, we are now set to introduce the budget tonight. The fiscal committee held a series of departmental budget hearings in Kenilworth, Scotch Plains and Elizabeth that were advertised in accordance with the law. Since the County Manager presented his executive budget in February, the Fiscal Committee was able to reduce the tax levy by an additional \$898,226. This was done without any loss of jobs or impact to our services. The overall result is a tax increase of just 2.98 percent, and the result is an average tax increase of \$50. This year's introduced Budget demonstrates Union County's continued economic growth and the success of our "sound management and budgeting" practices as validated by Moody's recent determination of an Aa1 bond rating. Another significant measure of Union County's economic growth is the increase in our ratable base by 2.5 percent or \$1.6 billion in equalized value over 2015. This is the largest increase since 2007 and our second consecutive annual increase. On a related note, the strong real estate market has resulted in an increase of more than \$1 million in realty transfer fees realized through the County Clerk's Office. The budget will be subject to state review, any further amendments, and we anticipate adoption in May. In closing I would like to thank the members of the Fiscal Committee, Freeholders Kowalski, Wright and Hudak, for their work along with our County Manager, our Department heads and our Finance Director Bibi Taylor and her staff.

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**PUBLIC COMMENT PORTION**

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

Freeholder Kowalski, Trust Fund Committee Chairman said the Trust Fund has preserved 320 acres of land and the County has awarded \$17 million in recreational grants, \$1.6 million in tree grants while planting 9,700 trees, \$3.1 million in historic preservation grants, and provided \$7.6 million for acquisition and renovation of historic properties owned by the County. The fund has been used to develop Esposito Park in Clark, Ponderosa Park in Scotch Plains and Stanford Drive Park in Berkeley Heights.

John Bury of Kenilworth spoke in regards to Resolution Number 313-2016. He said he thought the Union County Open Space Recreation and Historic Preservation Trust Fund was statewide and was supposed to sunset in 2019. He asked how long the period will be extended to; why does it need to go on the ballot and what was the last major purchase.

Chairman Bergen stated the Resolutions approved by the voters of Union County 16 years ago was in fact a County-wide resolution public question. He said it was approved for 20 years. He said the State has a similar program but it has nothing to do with our County program and Union County was strictly approved by the Union County voters for a period of 20 years. He said it is the belief of the entire Freeholder Board that this program should continue and that is the reason for it being on the ballot. It is to ask the voters of Union County to continue past the original 20 year period.

Chairman Bergen asked Vikki Durbin Drake the Administrator of the Open Space, Recreational and Historical Trust Fund to address the last purchase made.

Administrator Durbin Drake stated the last purchase made by the Trust Fund was on Cooper Road in Scotch Plain; a one acre adjacent property that added to a 23 acre property.

Chairman Bergen asked when the last purchase was made.

Director Durbin Drake replied in 2014.

Dr. Robert Rubino, Summit Councilman asked the Board to develop a budget that will increase taxes under 2 percent without any exemptions. He said the proceeds from the 2014 sale of Runnells Specialized Hospital should be put back into the budget as revenue which might bring it under the 2% cap.

Bruce Paterson, Garwood, made comments and/or inquires on a number of resolutions: relative to Resolution Number 2016-313. He asked why the Open Space Trust Fund is being tax is being extended. He asked if there is a law that requires it to be introduced three years ahead of time.

In reference to Resolution Number 2016-314, he asked if this is two separate resolutions and why is a CAP Bank needed; relative to Resolution Number 2015-315, he asked why a Administrator of a town is overseeing and in control of a County budget; relative to Resolution Number 2016-335, he asked for an explanation of the Collective Bargaining Agreement health benefits; and Resolution Number 2016-305, he asked for an explanation

of the 2000 New Century Homes project that was terminated before completion as a result of a bankruptcy filing by the developer.

In reference to Resolution Number 2016-305, Deputy Director Wagner stated that this is a project that is funded through the home investment project dated back to 2000. She said the New Century Homes was the developer, there were 11 affordable homes they built two homes before the company went bankrupt and we were able to recapture some of the funds. She explained by Statute HUD is required to return any and remaining of the outstanding funds.

In reference to Resolution Number 2016-335, Deputy Director Yuska responded stating that the Collective Bargain Agreement is the same that is offered to all the Unions. He said there are 5 different plans; two direct access plans, PPO, HSA, and EPO and each have different restrictions, costs, and different deductible depending on employees.

In reference to Resolution Number 2016-314, Director Taylor stated the Cap bank establishes a 3.5% cap bank. She said this is not included in the 2016 budget; the Cap bank that established is to allow flexibility with regards to budgeting for the prospective years.

County Counsel Barry stated that in reference to Resolution 2016-313, he stated that it is to extend it without a sunset time.

Chairman Bergen stated he believes that it is a good program for the County and or our citizens. He said it makes sense to make it permanent.

## RESOLUTIONS

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The following Resolutions are being offered for adoption:

- 2016-291 FREEHOLDER LINDA CARTER:** Authorizing the County Manager to award the proposed contract obtained through advertised public bidding in accordance with the Local Public Contracts Law, NJSA 40A:11-1 et seq: Department of Engineering, Public Works & Facilities Management, Division of Engineering: Solar-Mite Electrical Contractors, Inc., of Fords, New Jersey, for the purpose of providing Intersection Improvement at Center Street and South Avenue, Borough of Garwood, for an amount not to exceed \$253,866.50. (BA#04-2016; Union County Engineering Project Number 2012-031)

On a motion made by Freeholder Mirabella and seconded by Freeholder Kowalski, roll call showed 9 members voted in the affirmative.

- 2016-292 FREEHOLDER LINDA CARTER:** Authorizing the County Manager to award the proposed contract obtained through advertised public bidding in accordance with the Local Public Contracts Law, NJSA 40A:11-1 et seq: Department of Engineering, Public Works & Facilities Management, Division of Engineering: Manor II Electric, Inc., of Holmdel, New Jersey, for the purpose of providing the Installation of a Generator at the Union County Engineering Building, Scotch Plains, New Jersey, for

an amount not to exceed \$142,300.00. (BA#6-2016; Union County Engineering Project Number 2013-012)

On a motion made by Freeholder Mirabella and seconded by Freeholder Kowalski, roll call showed 9 members voted in the affirmative.

- 2016-293 FREEHOLDER LINDA CARTER:** Amending Resolution Number 2016-114, 2016 Local Bridges Future Needs Program LBFN-2016-0004 to reflect language revision as requested by the New Jersey Department of Transportation. (NJDOT) (Union County Engineering Project Number 2015-018)

On a motion made by Freeholder Mirabella and seconded by Freeholder Kowalski, roll call showed 9 members voted in the affirmative.

- 2016-294 FREEHOLDER LINDA CARTER:** Amending Resolution Number 2016-113, 2016 Local Bridges Future Needs Program LBFN-2016-00001 to reflect language revision as requested by the New Jersey Department of Transportation (NJDOT). (Union County Engineering Project Number 2016-003)

On a motion made by Freeholder Mirabella and seconded by Freeholder Kowalski, roll call showed 9 members voted in the affirmative.

- 2016-295 FREEHOLDER LINDA CARTER:** Authorizing the County Manager to enter into an Agreement between the County of Union and the Borough of Roselle for the Installation of a Traffic Control Signal at Chestnut Street (C.R. 625) and 5th Avenue within the Borough of Roselle, County of Union, New Jersey. (Union County Engineering Project Number 2016-020)

On a motion made by Freeholder Mirabella and seconded by Freeholder Kowalski, roll call showed 9 members voted in the affirmative.

- 2016-296 FREEHOLDER LINDA CARTER:** Authorizing the County Manager to award the proposed contract obtained through advertised public bidding in accordance with the Local Public Contracts Law, NJSA 40A:11-1 et seq: Department of Engineering, Public Works and Facilities Management, Division of Engineering: GPC, Inc., of Millburn, New Jersey, for the Union County Courthouse Radio Room Tower, County of Union, City of Elizabeth, New Jersey, for an amount not to exceed \$908,000.00.

On a motion made by Freeholder Mirabella and seconded by Freeholder Kowalski, roll call showed 9 members voted in the affirmative.

- 2016-297 FREEHOLDER LINDA CARTER:** Authorizing the County Manager to award the proposed contract obtained through advertised public bidding in accordance with the Local Public Contracts Law, NJSA 40A:11-1 et seq: Department of Engineering, Public Works, and Facilities Management, Division of Engineering, to Della Pello Paving, Inc., of Union, New Jersey, for the purpose of providing 2016 Road Resurfacing Project, Various Municipalities, County of Union, New Jersey, for an amount not to exceed \$8,292,179.85. (BA#12-2016; Union County Engineering Project Number 2015-003)

On a motion made by Freeholder Mirabella and seconded by Freeholder Kowalski, roll call showed 9 members voted in the affirmative.

- 2016-298 FREEHOLDER LINDA CARTER:** Authorizing the County Manager to award the proposed contract obtained through advertised public bidding in accordance with the Local Public Contracts Law, NJSA 40A:11-1 et seq: Department of Engineering, Public Works and Facilities Management, Division of Engineering: Reivax Contracting of Newark, New Jersey, for the purpose of providing Mountain Avenue Bridge (SP-11) over Stream 10-35, Superstructure Replacement, Township of Springfield, for an amount not to exceed \$445,764.00; funded through the New Jersey Department of Transportation, FY2014 Local Bridge Future Needs Program. (Bid Number 22-2016; Union County Engineering Project Number 2014-001)

On a motion made by Freeholder Mirabella and seconded by Freeholder Kowalski, roll call showed 9 members voted in the affirmative.

- 2016-299 FREEHOLDER LINDA CARTER:** Authorizing the County Manager to award the proposed contract obtained through advertised public bidding in accordance with the Local Public Contracts Law, NJSA 40:A11-1 et seq to: Pravco, Inc., Rahway, NJ (BA-7-2016) for the purpose of providing Roofing Maintenance & Repair Services for the Department of Engineering, Public Works & Facilities Management, Division of Facilities Management for twenty-four (24) consecutive months with the provision for one (1) twenty-four (24) month optional extension, contract amount not to exceed \$234,000.00.

On a motion made by Freeholder Mirabella and seconded by Freeholder Kowalski, roll call showed 9 members voted in the affirmative.

- 2016-300 FREEHOLDER LINDA CARTER:** Resolution concurring with the Township of Berkeley Heights granting permission to the Brooke Healy Foundation to hang a banner from May 30, 2016 to June 13, 2016 on Plainfield Avenue for the Brooke Healy Foundation Bikers for Brook Healy Motorcycle Run and Family Barbeque.

On a motion made by Freeholder Mirabella and seconded by Freeholder Kowalski, roll call showed 9 members voted in the affirmative.

- 2016-301 FREEHOLDER LINDA CARTER:** Resolution concurring with the Borough of Kenilworth to close the Boulevard from 14th Street to Michigan Avenue on Sunday, May 22, 2016 from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. for the Kenilworth Street Fair.

On a motion made by Freeholder Mirabella and seconded by Freeholder Kowalski, roll call showed 9 members voted in the affirmative.

- 2016-302 FREEHOLDER LINDA CARTER:** Resolution concurring with the Township of Berkeley Heights granting permission to the Rotary Club to hang a banner across Springfield Avenue from May 13, 2016 to May 30, 2016 and another on Plainfield Avenue from May 12, 2016 to May 30, 2016 to advertise their "Rubber Duck Fest."

On a motion made by Freeholder Mirabella and seconded by Freeholder Kowalski, roll call showed 9 members voted in the affirmative.

- 2016-303 FREEHOLDER LINDA CARTER:** Resolution concurring with the Township of Berkeley Heights granting permission to the Berkeley Heights Police Athletic League (PAL) to hang a banner on Plainfield and Springfield Avenue from April 14, 2016 to May 12, 2016 for the Annual PAL Golf Outing to be held on May 16, 2016.

On a motion made by Freeholder Mirabella and seconded by Freeholder Kowalski, roll call showed 9 members voted in the affirmative.

- 2016-304 FREEHOLDER LINDA CARTER:** Amending Resolution Number 2016-247, a contract with Weldon Materials, Inc., of Westfield, New Jersey, to provide road materials to the Division of Public Works and Park Maintenance, to reflect the correct contract term of a period of twelve (12) months with the option to extend the contract for an additional period of twelve (12) months, with no change in contract price. (Previously stated as a 24-month contract)

On a motion made by Freeholder Mirabella and seconded by Freeholder Kowalski, roll call showed 9 members voted in the affirmative.

- 2016-305 FREEHOLDER ANGEL G. ESTRADA:** Authorizing the County Manager to repay the US Department of Housing & Urban Development the sum of \$51,590 for HOME funds invested in the 2000 New Century Homes project that was terminated before completion as a result of a bankruptcy filing by the developer. Repayment is required per HUD regulation 24CFR 92.503 (b) (2).

On a motion made by Freeholder Mirabella and seconded by Freeholder Kowalski, roll call showed 9 members voted in the affirmative.

- 2016-306 FREEHOLDER CHRISTOPHER HUDAK:** Re-appointing the following members to the Construction Board of Appeals: David Maas (fire official); Richard Watkins (Bldg. Inspector); Matthew Sonz (contractor) and Don Moser (engineer) for a term beginning January 1, 2016 and ending December 31, 2018.

On a motion made by Freeholder Mirabella and seconded by Freeholder Kowalski, roll call showed 9 members voted in the affirmative.

- 2016-307 FREEHOLDER BETTE JANE KOWALSKI:** Authorizing the County Manager to renew a contract with Dr. Eshban Muthuka for the period of March 16, 2016 through March 15, 2017. Resolution #2015-583 references the Request for Qualifications (RFQ).

- 2016-308 FREEHOLDER BETTE JANE KOWALSKI:** Amending Resolution 2016-203, applying for and accepting NJ Transit's Consolidated NJ-Job Access and Reverse Commute (NJ-JARC) SFY 16 Grant funding, to increase the County Match in the amount of \$75,000 for a new total County Match of \$225,000 with no other changes to terms.

On a motion made by Freeholder Mirabella and seconded by Freeholder Kowalski, roll call showed 9 members voted in the affirmative.

- 2016-309 FREEHOLDER BETTE JANE KOWALSKI:** Amending Resolution Number 2015-970 to reflect the County of Union's share of the 2015 tax appeal of \$30,335.44.

On a motion made by Freeholder Mirabella and seconded by Freeholder Kowalski, roll call showed 9 members voted in the affirmative.

- 2016-310 FREEHOLDER BETTE JANE KOWALSKI:** Amending Resolution 2016-204, the 2016-2018 Area Plan Spending Plan, to reflect an increase in funding only in the amount not to exceed \$312,318 for a new grand total not to exceed \$3,030,657 to be allocated as outlined and charged to account numbers specified for the same contract year one period of January 1, 2016 through December 31, 2016 with no other changes to the 2016-2018 Area Plan.

On a motion made by Freeholder Mirabella and seconded by Freeholder Kowalski, roll call showed 8 members voted in the affirmative with Chairman Bergen abstaining.

- 2016-311 FREEHOLDER BETTE JANE KOWALSKI:** Authorizing the County Manager to approve the 2016 GAP Spending Plan in the total amount not to exceed \$71,000 for subcontracted services to be provided during the period of April 15, 2016 through December 31, 2016; further authorizing the transfer of funds among the agencies during the contract period should service needs change and/or if any of the agencies fails to meet its contractual obligation.

On a motion made by Freeholder Mirabella and seconded by Freeholder Kowalski, roll call showed 9 members voted in the affirmative.

- 2016-312 FREEHOLDER BETTE JANE KOWALSKI:** Amending Resolution 2015-1036 to extend the contract period on BA #76-2011 (Resolution #2013-1037) with Aramark Correctional Services, Philadelphia, PA, for an additional (1) month for the period of April 1, 2016 through April 30, 2016 for the continued provision of food services for residents and staff at the UC Juvenile Detention Center in an amount not to exceed \$50,000.

On a motion made by Freeholder Mirabella and seconded by Freeholder Kowalski, roll call showed 9 members voted in the affirmative.

- 2016-313 FREEHOLDER BETTE JANE KOWALSKI:** Resolution requesting the County Clerk to print upon the official ballot for the general election, to be held on November 8, 2016, a referendum proposition authorizing the extension of the "Union County Open Space Recreation and Historic Preservation Trust Fund."

On a motion made by Freeholder Mirabella and seconded by Freeholder Kowalski, roll call showed 9 members voted in the affirmative.

- 2016-314 FREEHOLDER ALEXANDER MIRABELLA:** Resolution to exceed the County tax levy limit and to establish a CAP Bank (N.J.S. 40A: 4-45.14).

On a motion made by Freeholder Mirabella and seconded by Freeholder Kowalski, roll call showed 9 members voted in the affirmative.

- 2016-315 FREEHOLDER ALEXANDER MIRABELLA:** Resolution Introducing and Approving the Annual Budget of the County of Union for the Fiscal Year 2016.



On a motion made by Freeholder Mirabella and seconded by Freeholder Kowalski, roll call showed 9 members voted in the affirmative.

- 2016-316 FREEHOLDER VERNELL WRIGHT:** Amending Resolution 2016-63, awarding BA 67-2015 open end contract to Shepard Brothers, Inc. Canandaigua, New York, to exercise the option as allowed by NJAC 5:30 et seq to purchase four (4) Paratransit 10 passenger vans with two wheelchair positions in the total amount not to exceed \$205,300 in order to maintain Paratransit's fleet of vehicles by replacing four vans that have reached their useful life as defined by the County of Union.

On a motion made by Freeholder Mirabella and seconded by Freeholder Kowalski, roll call showed 9 members voted in the affirmative.

- 2016-317 FREEHOLDER VERNELL WRIGHT:** Amending Resolution Number 2015-316 (BA#15-2015) a contract with Motivated Security Services for Cornerstone patients extending the contract for 12 months commencing May 11, 2016 through May 10, 2017.

On a motion made by Freeholder Mirabella and seconded by Freeholder Kowalski, roll call showed 9 members voted in the affirmative.

- 2016-318 FREEHOLDER VERNELL WRIGHT:** Appointing Kim Powers to the Union County Commission on the Status of Women for a term ending December 31, 2016.

On a motion made by Freeholder Mirabella and seconded by Freeholder Kowalski, roll call showed 9 members voted in the affirmative.

- 2016-319 VICE CHAIRMAN SERGIO GRANADOS:** Authorizing the County Manager to award a Professional Engineering Service Contract to Neglia Engineering Associates, of Clark, New Jersey to provide design, construction administration and inspection services to the construction of three (3) replacement golf cart path bridges and one (1) replacement foot bridge at the Galloping Hill Golf Course in Kenilworth, New Jersey for an amount not to exceed \$64,292.00. (Union County Engineering Project Number 2015-015)

On a motion made by Freeholder Mirabella and seconded by Freeholder Kowalski, roll call showed 9 members voted in the affirmative.

- 2016-320 VICE CHAIRMAN SERGIO GRANADOS:** Authorizing the County Manager to award a Professional Architectural Service Contract to USA Architects Planners/Interior Designers PA, of Somerville, New Jersey to provide architectural design, construction administration and inspection services for the Echo Lake Pavilion Renovation Project, Town of Westfield & Borough of Mountainside, for an amount not to exceed \$95,000.00. (Union County Engineering Project Number 2016-010)

On a motion made by Freeholder Mirabella and seconded by Freeholder Kowalski, roll call showed 9 members voted in the affirmative.

- 2016-321 VICE CHAIRMAN SERGIO GRANADOS:** Authorizing the County Manager to award a Professional Architectural Service Contract to The Musial Group of Mountainside,

New Jersey to provide architectural design, construction administration and inspection services for renovations at the Acadia Arboretum Building located in Scotch Plains for an amount not to exceed \$75,350.00. (Union County Engineering Project Number 2016-011)

On a motion made by Freeholder Mirabella and seconded by Freeholder Kowalski, roll call showed 9 members voted in the affirmative.

- 2016-322 VICE CHAIRMAN SERGIO GRANADOS:** Authorizing County Manager to execute License Agreement with PGA Tournament Corporation allowing the PGA to use Houdaille Quarry and Oak Ridge Park, subject to NJ DEP and DOT approval, from July 25, 2016 to August 1, 2016 for the PGA Championship, in return for \$50,000 which will be deposited in the Open Space Trust Fund.

On a motion made by Freeholder Mirabella and seconded by Freeholder Kowalski, roll call showed 9 members voted in the affirmative.

- 2016-323 VICE CHAIRMAN SERGIO GRANADOS:** Authorizing the County Manager, through the office of Cultural & Heritage Affairs, to reallocate funds received from the NJSCA to 33 Union County agencies and organizations as recommended by the Arts Grant Committee of the Cultural and Heritage Programs Advisory Board and subsequently approved by the entire Advisory Board in the amount of \$63,500.

On a motion made by Freeholder Mirabella and seconded by Freeholder Kowalski, roll call showed 9 members voted in the affirmative.

- 2016-324 VICE CHAIRMAN SERGIO GRANADOS:** Appointing the following members to the Union County Workforce Development Board to fill unexpired terms: Tina Earley for a term ending June 30, 2016; Hugh Caufield for a term ending June 30, 2017 and Pat Williams for a term ending June 30, 2018.

On a motion made by Freeholder Mirabella and seconded by Freeholder Kowalski, roll call showed 9 members voted in the affirmative.

- 2016-325 CHAIRMAN BRUCE H. BERGEN:** Authorizing the County Manager to amend Resolution 2015-515 to extend the contract period with A&A Fitness, Inc. d/b/a The Max of Springfield, Union, New Jersey to provide physical and nutritional administration services to the Union County Sheriff's Office and County of Union Employee Participants for a period of 18 months for a total not to exceed \$90,000.00.

On a motion made by Freeholder Mirabella and seconded by Freeholder Kowalski, roll call showed 9 members voted in the affirmative.

- 2016-326 CHAIRMAN BRUCE H. BERGEN:** Authorizing the Union County Prosecutor's Office to enter into an agreement with the County of Union and appoint Elizabeth Deo, RN, FN-CSA to serve as Acting SANE Coordinator effective April 18, 2016 through September 17, 2016.

On a motion made by Freeholder Mirabella and seconded by Freeholder Kowalski, roll call showed 9 members voted in the affirmative.

- 2016-327 CHAIRMAN BRUCE H. BERGEN:** Approving the Medical Malpractice Liability policy for Dr. Raymond Lanza, at Cornerstone Hospital, with Princeton Insurance Company, Princeton, New Jersey, for the period of May 1, 2016 through April 30, 2017 in the amount of \$13,642.69.

On a motion made by Freeholder Mirabella and seconded by Freeholder Kowalski, roll call showed 9 members voted in the affirmative.

- 2016-328 CHAIRMAN BRUCE H. BERGEN:** Authorizing the County Manager to enter into an agreement to provide liability coverage for the operation of the ambulances owned and operated by the County Emergency Services in the amount of \$10,574.00 with Western World Insurance Company, Franklin Lakes, New Jersey, for the period of April 26, 2016 to April 25, 2017.

On a motion made by Freeholder Mirabella and seconded by Freeholder Kowalski, roll call showed 9 members voted in the affirmative.

- 2016-329 CHAIRMAN BRUCE H. BERGEN:** Authorizing the County Manager to enter into a contract with Cherry Valley Tractor Sales, Marlton, NJ, for the purchase of Five (5) Kubota ZD1211L-72 Zero Turn 72" Mowers for the Division of Parks & Recreation, Parks Maintenance, through the Middlesex County Regional Educational Services Commission (MRESC) in the amount not to exceed \$72,101.30.

On a motion made by Freeholder Mirabella and seconded by Freeholder Kowalski, roll call showed 9 members voted in the affirmative.

- 2016-330 CHAIRMAN BRUCE H. BERGEN:** Authorizing the County Manager to award the proposed contract obtained through advertised public bidding in accordance with the Local Public Contracts Law, NJSA 40A:11-1 et seq: Department of Administrative Services, Division of Motor Vehicle, to Union County Collision, Roselle Park, NJ, for the purpose of providing the County with automobile and light truck collision repair, painting and refinishing for a period of 24 months, with the option to extend for an additional 24 months, not to exceed \$300,000.00.

On a motion made by Freeholder Mirabella and seconded by Freeholder Kowalski, roll call showed 9 members voted in the affirmative.

- 2016-331 CHAIRMAN BRUCE H. BERGEN:** Authorizing the County Manager to enter into a shared services agreement with Essex County for the purpose of relocating an average of forty (40) Union County inmates daily during the replacement of the roof and elevators in the Union County Jail. The replacement and relocation of inmates will last approximately one year and will begin on or about April 18, 2016 at a cost not to exceed \$1,500,000.

On a motion made by Freeholder Mirabella and seconded by Freeholder Kowalski, roll call showed 9 members voted in the affirmative.

- 2016-332 CHAIRMAN BRUCE H. BERGEN:** Authorizing the County Manager to award a contract to the Union County Economic Development Corporation to provide procurement training/technical assistance to private businesses within the County of

Union for the period of January 1, 2016 to December 31, 2016, in an amount not to exceed \$100,000.

On a motion made by Freeholder Mirabella and seconded by Freeholder Kowalski, roll call showed 9 members voted in the affirmative.

- 2016-333 CHAIRMAN BRUCE H. BERGEN:** Authorizing the County Manager to award a contract to the Union County Economic Development Corporation, to provide General Economic Development Services to Private Businesses in Union County, in an amount not to exceed \$100,000.

On a motion made by Freeholder Mirabella and seconded by Freeholder Kowalski, roll call showed 9 members voted in the affirmative.

- 2016-334 CHAIRMAN BRUCE H. BERGEN:** Authorizing the County Manager to have the Board of Chosen Freeholders approve a Memorandum of Understanding between the Union County Workforce Development Board and the Union County American Job Centers' Partners. (Formerly One-Stop Career Center)

On a motion made by Freeholder Mirabella and seconded by Freeholder Kowalski, roll call showed 9 members voted in the affirmative.

- 2016-335 CHAIRMAN BRUCE H. BERGEN:** Authorizing the County Manager to sign any and all documents necessary to enter into a Collective Bargaining Agreement with the Assistant Prosecutor's Association, Prosecutor's Office, effective January 1, 2015 through December 31, 2017.

On a motion made by Freeholder Mirabella and seconded by Freeholder Kowalski, roll call showed 9 members voted in the affirmative.

- 2016-336 CHAIRMAN BRUCE H. BERGEN:** Amending Resolution Number 2016-18, a contract with Continuum Voice and Data Systems for the provision of software maintenance services to the County's records management software system, for the purchase of an additional Document Import Processor and maintenance license and in the amount of \$6,000.00 for a new contract not to exceed \$32,240.00.

On a motion made by Freeholder Mirabella and seconded by Freeholder Kowalski, roll call showed 9 members voted in the affirmative.

#### **FREEHOLDER SPONSORED RESOLUTIONS**

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- 2016-337 FREEHOLDER LINDA CARTER & FREEHOLDER ALEXANDER MIRABELLA:** Laudatory resolution commending Mallory Banks on her efforts to raise awareness of Autism and wishing her success on her partnership with the Scotch Plains/Fanwood Baseball Association as they present a fundraising event on Saturday, April 16, 2016 at La Grande Park in Fanwood.

On a motion made by Freeholder Mirabella and seconded by Freeholder Kowalski, roll call showed 9 members voted in the affirmative.

- 2016-338 FREEHOLDER CHRISTOPHER HUDAK:** Congratulating Donald J. Givens for being selected as the Linden's 40th Annual Outstanding Senior Citizen of the Year for 2016.

On a motion made by Freeholder Mirabella and seconded by Freeholder Kowalski, roll call showed 9 members voted in the affirmative.

- 2016-339 FREEHOLDER BETTE JANE KOWALSKI, FREEHOLDER ALEXANDER MIRABELLA, & FREEHOLDER ANGEL G. ESTRADA:** Laudatory resolution celebrating the week of April 10, 2016 through April 16, 2016 as "National Library Week," and further recognizing its 2016 theme: "Libraries Transform."

On a motion made by Freeholder Mirabella and seconded by Freeholder Kowalski, roll call showed 9 members voted in the affirmative.

- 2016-340 FREEHOLDER VERNELL WRIGHT:** Extending the Board's deepest condolences to the family of former Monmouth County Freeholder Thomas J. Powers who passed away on April 4, 2016.

On a motion made by Freeholder Mirabella and seconded by Freeholder Kowalski, roll call showed 9 members voted in the affirmative.

- 2016-341 FREEHOLDER VERNELL WRIGHT & CHAIRMAN BRUCE H. BERGEN:** Congratulating the Diamond Circle as it celebrates its 60th Anniversary at their Annual Spring Luncheon on Saturday, April 16th as they congratulate their newly inducted members.

On a motion made by Freeholder Mirabella and seconded by Freeholder Kowalski, roll call showed 9 members voted in the affirmative.

**2016-342 VICE CHAIRMAN SERGIO GRANADOS:** Extending the Board's appreciation and commending the Elizabethtown Gas Company for its leadership role in promoting the partnership of the public and private sectors in support of the arts in Union County.

On a motion made by Freeholder Mirabella and seconded by Freeholder Kowalski, roll call showed 9 members voted in the affirmative.

- 2016-343 VICE CHAIRMAN SERGIO GRANADOS:** Recognizing and expressing appreciation to the National Arts Program Foundation staff for their role in promoting appreciation and recognition of individual artistic achievement and its importance to community spirit

On a motion made by Freeholder Mirabella and seconded by Freeholder Kowalski, roll call showed 9 members voted in the affirmative.

- 2016-344 VICE CHAIRMAN SERGIO GRANADOS:** Recognizing the month of April as Autism Awareness Month throughout the County of Union and commending the efforts of Autism Speaks and other service organizations and agencies for educating people about the issues surrounding Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD); and further celebrating the resources and support services as available to people with Autism.

On a motion made by Freeholder Mirabella and seconded by Freeholder Kowalski, roll call showed 9 members voted in the affirmative.

- 2016-345 VICE CHAIRMAN SERGIO GRANADOS:** Laudatory resolution acknowledging the efforts of the Community Coordinated Child Care of Union County (CCCC) as it celebrates its 29th Annual "Month of The Young Child."

On a motion made by Freeholder Mirabella and seconded by Freeholder Kowalski, roll call showed 9 members voted in the affirmative.

- 2016-346 CHAIRMAN BRUCE H. BERGEN:** Congratulating the First Baptist Church of Westfield upon celebrating their 150 years of ministry in Westfield.

On a motion made by Freeholder Mirabella and seconded by Freeholder Kowalski, roll call showed 9 members voted in the affirmative.

- 2016-347 CHAIRMAN BRUCE H. BERGEN:** Congratulating Janet Whitman on being selected as the recipient of the Summit-New Providence Rotary Club's Person of the Year Award.

On a motion made by Freeholder Mirabella and seconded by Freeholder Kowalski, roll call showed 9 members voted in the affirmative.

- 2016-348 CHAIRMAN BRUCE H. BERGEN:** Proclaiming the evening of May 4th through the evening of May 5th, 2016 as Days of Holocaust Remembrance (Yom HaShoah).

On a motion made by Freeholder Mirabella and seconded by Freeholder Kowalski, roll call showed 9 members voted in the affirmative.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT PORTION**

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

Dr. Robert Rubino of Summit asked the Board to develop a budget that increases taxes under 2% without any exemptions. He asked the Freeholders to let the Open Space Trust Fund expire. He suggested that the proceeds from the 2014 sale of Runnells Hospital should be put back into the budget as revenue which might bring taxes under the 2% cap. He suggested merging the Sheriff and County Police Department in order to save money. He presented a feasibility study to the Board and provided the Clerk of the Board with a copy.

John Bury of Kenilworth spoke in reference to an article from the Westfield Leader. It spoke of the collapse pension plan. He stated there is only one Trust Fund for the NJ retirement system which is supposed to have \$70 billion dollars, but \$25 billion is an alternative investment and \$30 billion is the participant own money. He mentioned seven types of plans and wasteful spending.

In reference to Resolution 2016- 313, he stated in 2011 when the Cap came in someone came up with an idea to take money out of the Trust Fund and he claims by putting it on the ballot it is to continue to take dollars out to help balance the budget.

Bruce Paterson, Garwood, thanked Acting Director Yuska for answering his question.

Mr. Paterson asked why the Open Space Trust Fund is being put on the ballot before facing the sunset provision. He also asked why a town administrator is overseeing the County budget. He asked who he can speak to for answers regarding this issue.

### **Freeholder Reports and Comments**

Freeholder Hudak made comments relative to recycling. He stated the following:

He said our seasonal free recycling events are now in full swing. These events are among the most popular programs we offer, serving thousands of Union County residents annually. In particular, our Household Hazardous Waste events provide every resident with a safe, reliable way to dispose of old chemicals, mercury thermostats, used motor oil cleaning products, and other hazardous substances. We even take a limited number of car tires at these events. The next one is coming up from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the Union County Vocational-Technical Schools campus, located at 1776 Raritan Road in Scotch Plains. Our other recycling events and programs include paper shredding, household electronics, and scrap metal. He said it is a great opportunity to have the Trust Fund. He said the revenues are not going back into the towns and keeping the infrastructure keeps the municipal budget lower.

Freeholder Wright made comments relative to the Senior Art Show: She stated the following:

They have invited artists 60 years and older to participate in this year's Union County Senior Citizens Art Exhibition. This year's juried exhibition will feature first, second and third place winners as well as honorable mention awards in various categories. Artwork by professional and nonprofessional artists is now being accepted through the Union County Office of Cultural and Heritage Affairs. Selected artwork will be on exhibit from May 31 through July 12 at the Liberty Hall Center in Union. An awarding ceremony will take place on Wednesday, June 8. For more information regarding eligibility, artwork criteria, categories, and how to participate please contact the Office of Cultural and Heritage Affairs at 908-558-2550.

Freeholder Kowalski made comments in reference to Library and Garden Grants. She stated the following:

She thanked her colleagues on the Freeholder Board for supporting the Union County Library Grants for Children's Programming and Materials. She said the program began last year, based on feedback from our local libraries. In 2015 we disbursed almost \$75,000 to all 20 municipal libraries in Union County. The response was overwhelmingly positive, and this year the program is part of Chairman Bergen's "Union County at Work and Play" quality of life initiatives, with grants totaling up to \$150,000. We are also now accepting applications for the new "Union County Means Green Community Garden Grants" program. This

program provides matching grants of up to \$3,000 for new community gardens, or improvements to existing gardens.

Freeholder Carter made comments in reference to online pothole reporting. She stated the following:

Road crews will be out in force to repair the potholes that cropped up this winter. I want to remind residents and commuters that there are resources you can use to report a pothole to the proper agency. County roads are identified by their blue route signs, which include the letters "CR" followed by a three-digit number. To report a pothole or any other issue with a county road, use an online form available through the Union County Department of Engineering, Public Works and Facilities Management at [ucnj.org/pot-hole](http://ucnj.org/pot-hole). Residents without Internet access can report potholes on Union County roads by calling 908-789-3660. For potholes on state highways, call the New Jersey Department of Transportation at 1-800-POTHOLE or use the online form at [nj.gov/transportation](http://nj.gov/transportation). For local roads, contact the municipality in which the road is located. Web links for all 21 Union County municipalities are available through the County website, [ucnj.org/municipalities](http://ucnj.org/municipalities).

Freeholder Mirabella thanked Dr. Rubino for coming out and will take a look at the information he handed out to the Freeholders and UC College regarding her budget and for 30 students coming out.

Freeholder Mirabella stated the following regarding the Union County Child Advocacy Center:

He said Race 4 the Children, a 5K event to be held at 9:00 a.m. on Sunday, April 24 at Warinanco Park in Elizabeth. There is also a 2K walk for those wishing to participate but not run. The Race, which is organized to benefit the Child Advocacy Center of Union County, is being co-sponsored by the Friends of the Child Advocacy Center, the Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders, and the City of Elizabeth. By supporting the Union County Child Advocacy Center, you will directly support the diligent team members who address crimes against children and look after young victims. Crimes against children are among some of the most heinous and disturbing that law enforcement officers encounter. In 1995, the Union County Prosecutor's Office Child Advocacy Center (CAC) was established to handle a continually growing caseload. Today, 28 staff members work at the state-of-the-art Center It opened in 2012 and was built by the County through the Improvement Authority. The event is also in memory of the late Union County Prosecutor Andrew K. Ruotolo, who was tragically taken from us at a young age so many years ago.

Vice Chairman Granados as the Liaison to the Workforce Investment Board stated the following:

I am pleased to announce, on behalf of my colleagues, that another 100 Work at Home, Full-Time Private Employment Jobs will be available through the Union County Workforce Innovation Business Center. In fulfillment of Chairman Bruce Bergen's Veterans initiatives for 2016, I am also pleased to announce that Veterans will be given preference in hiring. Since the beginning of the year, that's more than 400 new job opportunities for County residents. If you are interested in applying for one of these jobs, you must register for the informational session being held on Friday, April 29, 10:00 a.m. at the Mills at Jersey Gardens in Elizabeth.



Also, next month, the County of Union will join with Senator Menendez, the organization Autism Speaks, the Moving Forward Foundation, and the Elizabeth Board of Education in sponsoring a Family Services Town Hall on Saturday, May 7 at 11:30 a.m., at the Ronald Reagan Academy in Elizabeth. This town hall will feature a conversation about transition, education, employment, and the resources available for those with autism as they plan for adulthood.

County Manager Faella urged the public to go on the County's website for all programs and activities. He said the spring/summer schedule will be posted and there will be activities for all ages.

Chairman Bergen stated that this is the 4<sup>th</sup> budget that he was a part of and said the Board and staff has tried to keep the budget as low as possible while still trying to increase revenue.

Chairman Bergen stated that each year, the County has to comply with 2 county cap laws, either the 1977 or the 2010 and is required to stay within the lower of the two calculations. He added that the 2% cap law for municipalities is different. He stated that he believes the governor's proposed budget represents a 3% increase.

Chairman Bergen made comments relative to the pressures of unfunded state mandates. He said State funding has been reduced for various projects; noting the Casino Revenue has been down since 2008 and that the Paratransit system is now being funded by the County for \$3 million in order to keep the program in-tact. He said Peer Grouping funding has been down \$800,000 a year and the County has to keep it up to continue nursing home prevention services, home health social work and hospice and assistance for people with disability, shelter, rental and mortgage assistance, legal services, after school programs or the homeless. He said the County works hard to continue these programs in spite of the cuts from the State.

Chairman Bergen made comments relative to the lack of funding of the Transportation Trust Fund. He said \$565 million is needed to operate roads and bridges for the counties across the state. He said counties across the state are responsible for \$450 million. He said the county roads and bridges represents 35% of total traffic and only 6.7% is of state funded.

Chairman Bergen stated that there is a new concern that has been recently enacted called the Criminal Reform Act, also known as the Bail Reform. He said it will save money and reduce the inmate population, but is an unfunded mandated program from the State and the County must cover the personnel and cap costs, such as: the Prosecutor's office will need 11 new positions that will cost \$700,000; the Sheriff's office will need an additional 18 personnel at \$732,000, facilities will need 4 new hires at \$160,000 and there is an additional \$200,000 for other expenses that the County will incur because of this new program, which is estimated for a total amount of \$108 million for the County and \$40 million to counties statewide. He said at this time, no costs are funded by the state for this program, but there is a possible relief in sight as the Assembly is considering the A3491 Bill which will increase criminal court fees that will generate about half the money. He said if the bill passes, it will be put in

a dedicated fund to reimburse the County and the other \$20 million will have to come from general appropriations.

Chairman Bergen stated that he intends to introduce a Resolution for the pending State Law. He thanked County Manager Faella, the department heads, especially Finance Director Taylor and Freeholder Mirabella, Fiscal Committee Chairman who bring a budget that balances costs and services in the need to control taxes. He said he is proud to support this budget.

Chairman Bergen announced that the County has launched a new online resource center webpage for Veterans. He said the web page contains links for the Federal Veterans Administration, State and County agencies, retirement planning, transportation, education, job training, health care, mental health services, end of life planning and more. It is part of the County's UC Hero initiative for 2016 in honor of Veterans and is a guide to services at the different levels of government, including County Government. He said we owe an unending debt of gratitude to all the brave men and women who have made great sacrifices for our country and committed themselves to maintaining our freedom.

Chairman Bergen also announced another 2016 initiative that is aimed at establishing a countywide, no-kill animal shelter. He said it is a long-term project and in the meantime the Board is looking at ways to support local pet adoption efforts. He said this year, the County will co-sponsor events supporting Home for Good Dog Rescue, a Berkeley Heights-based non-profit organization that works to save dogs from high-kill shelters and place them in loving homes. He said the sponsorship of Home for Good Dog Rescue will involve providing equipment and materials and manpower for an upcoming event at Nomahegan Park on April 30<sup>th</sup> in Cranford, and the 5K run and 5K doggy dash and for their signature event, their sixth annual Bark-A-Que and Dog adoption event on September 19<sup>th</sup> at the Village Green in Summit.

## **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

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

- 1) Attorney-Client privileged communication and discussion relative to potential contract negotiations for a Food Truck / Music Carnival 2016.

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

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 Attorney-Client privileged communication and Attorney-Client privileged communication and discussion relative to potential contract negotiations for a Food Truck / Music Carnival 2016.

The minutes of the Executive Session shall be separated from the minutes of the Open Public Session. The minutes of the Executive Session, redacted as appropriate and necessary, shall be available in approximately 30 days. 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. Upon the Board's return, it will not take formal

action on the matters discussed. Upon a majority vote of the members present, the Board may now retire to Executive Session.

Chairman Bergen asked for a motion to enter Executive Session. On a motion made by Freeholder Mirabella and seconded by Freeholder Wright roll call showed 9 members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

Chairman Bergen asked for a motion to return to the Regular Meeting. On a motion made by Freeholder Mirabella and seconded by Freeholder Wright roll call showed 8 members of the Board voted in the affirmative with Vice Chairman Granados absent.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

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Chairman Bergen called for a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:47 pm. On a motion made by Freeholder Mirabella and Freeholder Hudak, a voice vote showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative with Vice Chairman Granados absent.

**UNION COUNTY BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS 2016 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, 6<sup>th</sup> 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 7:00pm 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 3, 2016 at 12:00 pm**  
**Assignment Judge Karen M. Cassidy's Courtroom, 2 Broad Street, Elizabeth, NJ**

**2016 MEETING SCHEDULE**

**AGENDA SETTING SESSION**

January 14, 2016

February 4, 2016

February 18, 2016

March 3, 2016

March 17, 2016

April 7, 2016

April 21, 2016

May 5, 2016

May 19, 2016

June 2, 2016

June 16, 2016

July 14, 2016

August 11 2016

September 8, 2016

September 22, 2016

October 6, 2016

October 20, 2016

November 10, 2016

December 1, 2016

December 15, 2016

**REGULAR MEETINGS**

January 21, 2016

February 11, 2016

February 18, 2016

March 10, 2016

March 31, 2016

April 14, 2016

April 28, 2016

May 12, 2016

May 26, 2016

June 9, 2016

June 23, 2016

July 21, 2016

August 18, 2016

September 15, 2016

September 29, 2016

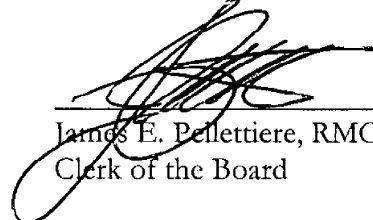
October 13, 2016

October 20, 2016

November 22, 2016 (Tuesday)

December 8, 2016

December 22, 2016

  
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 James E. Pellettiere, RMC  
 Clerk of the Board

JEP:ac/mb