



## UNION COUNTY BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2020  
AGENDA SETTING MEETING MINUTES

### CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Mirabella presided over the meeting and called the meeting to order at 5:05 P.M.

### ROLL CALL

Roll call showed, Chairman Alexander Mirabella, Freeholder Angela R. Garretson, Freeholder Sergio Granados, Freeholder Christopher Hudak, Freeholder Bette Jane Kowalski, Freeholder Andrea Staten, and Freeholder Rebecca Williams were present; with Freeholder Kimberly Palmieri-Moued absent.

Also present were County Manager Edward T. Oatman, County Counsel Bruce H. Bergen Esq., and Deputy Clerk of the Board Annie Croom.

### PRAYER AND SALUTE TO THE FLAG

The prayer and salute to the flag were led by Deputy Clerk of the Board Croom.

### STATEMENT OF COMPLIANCE WITH THE OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT

The statement of compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act was read by Deputy Clerk of the Board Croom.

Chairman Mirabella addressed the public:

*Good evening, and welcome to another remote meeting of the Freeholder Board.*

*Let's begin with congratulations for the candidates who won their seats in Tuesday's General Election. We are all looking forward to working with you in the coming year.*

*As is our custom, on behalf of the Freeholder Board I would also like to thank everyone in the Union County community for working together during the COVID-19 outbreak. Unfortunately, the danger is far from over. And so we continue to urge everyone to keep safe. Wear masks, observe social distance, and let's all keep our attention focused on protecting the Union County family.*

*With that in mind, I would like to remind everyone that Union County's free Drive-Through COVID-19 Test Center at Kean University in Union Township is now open every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. Also, we are expanding the test panel, to include results for flu types A and B in addition to the COVID-19 virus, all on one swab. The new swab will only involve the lower part of your nostril, so*

*it's going to be a much more comfortable experience than before. That's great news for all of us. And, it will provide you with important information about your health status as the flu season gets under way. So please, take advantage of this important new resource.*

*We are also moving a new lab onto the Kean campus, which will enable us to turn the results around in as little as 24 hours or less. We expect the new lab to be up and running by early December. Union County's free Mobile Test Unit also continues to provide COVID tests on a walk-up basis, at locations throughout the County. They were in Westfield this afternoon, and they will be in Plainfield this Saturday, November 7. You can check our COVID website, [ucnj.org/covid19](http://ucnj.org/covid19), for upcoming dates.*

*For Union County residents in need of food assistance, our next drive-up food distribution event will be at Kean, beginning at 9:00 this Saturday morning. To help connect our residents with jobs, we are also hosting a virtual job fair on Zoom next Thursday afternoon, November 12. If you would like to connect with opportunities at Trinitas Hospital, Wakefern, Remarkable Foods, and Farmland Dairies, please sign up at [ucnj.org/virtual-job-fair](http://ucnj.org/virtual-job-fair). Just a reminder, we also offer employment resources online through the Union County Works website, which you can find at [ucajc.org](http://ucajc.org).*

*And, we continue to use online resources to help the Union County family stay connected during the COVID outbreak. Coming up this Saturday is another installment of our "Virtual Saturdays" program for Union County families with special needs children.*

*And next Wednesday, November 11, we present the next episode of our virtual series on LGBTQ issues, Queer Empowerment Hour. As November 11 is Veterans Day, the theme of the episode is "being queer in the military," so please join us for a lively and thoughtful discussion. You can find more details about all of these programs on the County website, [ucnj.org](http://ucnj.org).*

*And to our military veterans, on behalf of the Freeholder Board, thank you for your service, and for all of your contributions to the Union County community.*

*And now, let's begin the business of this evening's meeting.*

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## **APPROVAL OF COMMUNICATIONS**

### Note and File

Chairman Mirabella advised that the Communications would be approved later during the Regular Meeting.

**OFFICE OF THE UNION COUNTY CLERK**

Joanne Rajoppi, County Clerk

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Deputy County Clerk Clara C. Fernandez represented the Office.

There were no questions or comments by the Board.

1. Resolution requesting a waiver of County's residency requirement for Rashid Odoms, Office of the County Clerk. **(Chairman Alexander Mirabella)**

**OFFICE OF THE UNION COUNTY PROSECUTOR**

Lyndsay V. Ruotolo, Acting Prosecutor

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There were no questions or comments by the Board.

1. Authorizing the County Manger to enter into an agreement for the purchase of software licensing from Gold Type Business Machines, East Rutherford, New Jersey in an amount not to exceed \$2,400.00. **(Chairman Alexander Mirabella)**
2. Authorizing the County Manager, through the Union County Prosecutor's Office, to enter into an agreement with Vigilant Solutions, LLC, of Livermore, CA for the renewal of the Investigative Data Platform Annual Subscription in an amount not to exceed \$19,904.72. **(Chairman Alexander Mirabella)**
3. Authorizing the County Manager, through the Union County Prosecutor's Office, to accept funding from the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Bureau of Justice Assistance for the FY 2020 DNA Capacity Enhancement for Backlog Reduction program in the amount of \$719,295.00 for the period of October 1, 2020 through September 30, 2022. **(Chairman Alexander Mirabella)**
4. Authorizing the County Manager, through the Office of the Union County Prosecutor, to apply for and accept funding from the State of New Jersey, Office of the Attorney General, Department of Law and Public Safety for FFY 2020 Overdose Data to Action - Operation Helping Hand Grant Program in the amount of \$47,619.00 for the period of September 1, 2020 through August 31, 2021. (Subaward Number FYOHH-20-2020) **(Chairman Alexander Mirabella)**
5. Authorizing the County Manager, through the Office of the Union County Prosecutor, to apply for and accept funding from the State of New Jersey, Office of the Attorney General, Department of Law and Public Safety, for FFY 2018 Stop Violence Against Woman Grant Program in the amount of \$36,534.00 in federal funds with a required match of \$12,178.00 for a total project cost of \$48,712.00 for the period of July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021. (Subaward Number VAWA 50-18) **(Chairman Alexander Mirabella)**
6. Authorizing the County Manager, through the Office of the Union County Prosecutor, to apply for and accept funding from the State of New Jersey, Office of the Attorney General, Department of Law and Public Safety, for FFY 2019 Stop Violence Against Woman Grant Program in the amount of \$40,540.00 in federal funds with a required match of \$13,513.00 for a total project cost of

\$54,053.00 for the period of July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021. (Subaward number VAWA 50-19) **(Chairman Alexander Mirabella)**

#### **DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

Amy Wagner, Deputy County Manager/Director

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There were no questions or comments by the Board.

1. Authorizing the County Manager to enter into an agreement with Edmunds & Associates, Inc., Northfield, NJ, to provide maintenance and technical support for the County's Financial Accounting and Electronic Requisition System for the period of January 1, 2021 through December 31, 2021, in an amount not to exceed \$21,205.00. **(Chairman Alexander Mirabella)**

#### **DEPARTMENT OF ENGINEERING, PUBLIC WORKS & FACILITIES MANAGEMENT**

Joseph Graziano, Director

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1. Amending Resolution Number 2010-964 adopted November 23, 2010 for a Professional Engineering Service Contract with Pennoni Associates Inc, of Newark, New Jersey for the Intersection Improvement Project at Rahway Avenue & Lamberts Mill Road and West Broad Street & Scotch Plains Avenue in Westfield, New Jersey to reflect a change in an account number only. (UC Engineering Project # 2010-017) **(Chairman Alexander Mirabella)**
2. Authorizing the County Manager to execute a Joint Funding Agreement with the United States Department of Interior, U.S. Geological Survey, Water Resources Division, West Trenton, New Jersey (Agreement Number 21LIJFA16) for the period of October 1, 2020 to September 30, 2021 for a sum not to exceed \$17,310.00. **(Chairman Alexander Mirabella)**

Freeholder Kowalski inquired about this item and whether or not this was an annual agreement.

Director Graziano confirmed this was an annual agreement totaling \$25,000, noting that the remaining balance was the responsibility of the Department of Interior - US Geological Survey. He advised that monies would cover stream gauges and data collection platforms used throughout the county, in particular in Rahway River running through Kenilworth, Rahway, and Springfield.

3. Amending Resolution Number 2018-686, adopted August 9, 2018, a Professional Engineering Service Contract with CME Associates of Monmouth Junction, New Jersey, to provide additional Licensed Site Remediation Professional Services (LSRP) related to the remediation of the former Trap and Skeet Facility at Lenape Park located in the Township of Cranford, in an amount not to exceed \$45,000.00 for a new contract amount not to exceed \$656,021.00 (Union County Engineering Project Number 2011-029). **(Chairman Alexander Mirabella)**

Freeholder Hudak inquired about the LSRP and the possibility of selecting an alternative LSRP.

County Counsel Bergen confirmed that the Licensed Site Remediation Professional would remain unless changes in positions occurred, noting it was preferred to maintain the same LSRP through the life of a given project. He added that costs would be billed against authorized reserved funding that would be replenished, as necessary, until the completion of the project.

Director Graziano added that the cited project had been in the works since 2014 with CME Associates and the same LSRP. He advised that the Department could consider alternate LSRPs moving forward. He further advised that the Department was also waiting on the Hazardous Discharge Site Remediation Fund (HDSRF), noting the site was used between 1925 and 2005 as a trap and skeet facility and he expected heavy contamination on site that would have to be addressed before it could be repurposed for public use.

4. Amending Resolution Number 2017-723 adopted September 14, 2017, a Professional Engineering Service contract with Hardesty & Hanover of New York, New York for the Replacement of Gordon Street Bridge over "Out of Service" Conrail Structure No. 2050150, located in the Borough of Roselle and Borough of Roselle Park, New Jersey for an amount not to exceed \$557,408.00 for a new contract amount not to exceed \$1,578,796.69. Funding in the amount of \$557,408.00 for this contract amendment will be provided by way of Transportation Trust Fund, TTF Swap -Funds Exchange Program and administered by the New Jersey Department of Transportation (NJDOT). (UC Engineering Project # 2011-051) **(Chairman Alexander Mirabella)**

Freeholder Hudak asked about funding for the project and approximately how long construction would last once the project commenced. He also requested additional details be provided as the project progressed, expressing concerns relative to potential traffic disruptions that could result from the project.

Director Graziano advised that the monies being used to fund the project would come from the Transportation Trust Fund and other bridge-related grants, confirming the County itself would not be funding the project. He further advised that The Brooks Act dictated policy for securing a vendor to provide the necessary services, noting only state-approved vendors could respond to the advertised bid notice. He confirmed that Hardesty & Hanover would serve as the final design engineer during construction. He added that an additional vendor would be secured for inspection, post construction, secured through the same, rigorous process. Director Graziano added that he expected the project to go out to bid in the winter, with construction schedule for the spring and summer of 2021, advising that he expected the project to take two years from start to finish.

Chairman Mirabella expressed similar concerns relative to the project and potential traffic disruptions as well as restricting access to neighboring towns.

5. Authorizing the County Manager to enter into an Agreement between the County of Union and the Township of Cranford for the installation of a Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacon (RRFB) Pedestrian Crosswalk System on Walnut Avenue (CR-632) and Chestnut Street/Retford Avenue in Cranford, New Jersey. System will be purchased and maintained by the Township of Cranford. **(Chairman Alexander Mirabella)**

Freeholder Hudak inquired about the type of light being installed.

Director Graziano confirmed that it a standard rectangular light would be installed at the cited intersection.

**DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE**

Bibi Taylor, Director

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There were no questions or comments by the Board.

1. Resolution modifying the 2020 Union County adopted budget in the amount of \$64,492 as a result of notification received from the State of New Jersey, Department of Human Services, Division of Aging Services for a program entitled: CARES ACT Area Plan Contract / ADRC COVID 19 Grant. **(Freeholder Sergio Granados)**
2. Resolution modifying the 2020 Union County adopted budget in the amount of \$117,975 as a result of notification received from the State of New Jersey, Department of Human Services, Division of Aging Services for a program entitled: Area Plan Contract (APC). **(Freeholder Sergio Granados)**
3. Resolution modifying the 2020 Union County adopted budget in the amount of \$1,806,327 as a result of notification received from the State of New Jersey, Department of Labor and Workforce Development for a program entitled: Workfirst New Jersey (WFNJ) Grant. **(Freeholder Sergio Granados)**
4. Resolution modifying the 2020 Union County adopted budget in the amount of \$816,274.00 as a result of notification received from the State of New Jersey, Department of Community Affairs for a program entitled: Cares Act Community Service Block Grant (CSBG) Non-Discretionary (ND) COVID 19. **(Freeholder Sergio Granados)**
5. Resolution Modifying the 2020 Union County adopted budget in the amount of \$308,750 as a result of notification received from the Center for Tech and Civic Life for a program entitled: Absentee Ballot Assembly (COVID 19 Response) Grant. **(Freeholder Sergio Granados)**
6. Resolution modifying the 2020 Union County adopted budget in the amount of \$107,499.08 as a result of notification received from the State of New Jersey, Department of State for a program entitled: Cares Act - (HAVA) Election Related Grant. **(Freeholder Sergio Granados)**
7. Resolution modifying the 2020 Union County adopted budget in the amount of \$719,295 as a result of notification received from the United States Department of Justice for a program entitled: DOJ DNA Backlog Reduction Grant. **(Freeholder Sergio Granados)**
8. Resolution modifying the 2020 Union County adopted budget in the amount of \$36,534 as a result of notification received from the State of New Jersey,

Department of Law and Public Safety for a program entitled: STOP Violence Against Women (VAWA) FFY '18 Grant . **(Freeholder Sergio Granados)**

9. Resolution modifying the 2020 Union County adopted budget in the amount of \$40,540 as a result of notification received from the State of New Jersey, Department of Law and Public Safety for a program entitled: Stop Violence Against Women (VAWA) FFY ' 19 Grant. **(Freeholder Sergio Granados)**
10. Resolution modifying the 2020 Union County adopted budget in the Amount of \$47,619 as a result of notification received from the State of New Jersey, Department of Law and Public Safety for a program entitled: Operation Helping Hand Grant. **(Freeholder Sergio Granados)**

Chairman Mirabella asked Director Taylor to confirm that these items related to receipt of grant funding.

Director Taylor confirmed this to be the case.

#### **DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES**

Debbie-Ann Anderson, Director

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1. Authorizing the County Manager to utilize the County's fifth option to extend the contract to Community Access Unlimited, Elizabeth, NJ through the competitive contracting process, to operate the Union County Children's Shelter for the period commencing January 1, 2021 through December 31, 2021, representing year five (5) of the five (5) year contract option, in the amount not to exceed \$410,000.00. **(Freeholder Sergio Granados)**
2. Authorizing the County Manager to utilize the County's fifth option to extend the contract to YWCA of Eastern Union County, Elizabeth, NJ through the competitive contracting process, to operate the Family Justice Center for the period commencing January 1, 2021 through December 31, 2021, representing year five (5) of the five (5) year contract option, in the amount not to exceed \$330,825.00. **(Freeholder Sergio Granados)**
3. Amending Resolution Number 2020-580 to increase funds for the Countywide Code Blue Emergency Shelter Initiative for the winter months of 2019-2020 by an additional amount not to exceed \$100,000.00 for the period of October 1, 2020 through December 31, 2020. **(Freeholder Sergio Granados)**

Freeholder Hudak asked Director Anderson if this initiative had incurred additional costs due to COVID-19. He also inquired about whether or not some of these costs could be covered by CARES ACT funding.

Director Anderson confirmed that additional costs had emerged due to COVID-19 and that the Department was in the process of looking to offset some of these costs with CARES ACT funding as well as increase capacity by securing additional locations to provide the service. She advised that there had been an increase in the homeless population due to COVID-19 and new protocols made it difficult to secure ample locations as well as place COVID-19 positive individuals within that population. She

noted that recently revised Code Blue guidelines required relative services to be available whenever the weather dropped below 32°.

Freeholder Kowalski expressed similar concerns relative to meeting the demands of housing the homeless population during COVID-19. She inquired about securing additional facilities, noting the use of churches in the past during exigent circumstances.

Director Anderson advised that many churches were unable to provide the necessary services due to COVID-19 and the subsequent restrictions. She added that the Department was looking for both in-county and out-of-county facilities to meet the demand, but noted potential increases in spending relative to out-of-county locations.

4. Authorizing the County Manager to enter into a contract with Pharma-Care Inc. Clark, NJ to provide pharmacy consulting services for the patients at Cornerstone Behavioral Health Hospital for the period of January 1, 2021 through December 31, 2021 in the amount not to exceed \$12,000.00. **(Freeholder Rebecca Lynne Williams)**
5. Authorizing the County Manager to certify to the NJ Department of Human Services, Division of Mental Health Services that there have been no changes to the plan for delivery of mental health services and that the County of Union will continue to operate a psychiatric facility during the 2021 calendar year. **(Freeholder Rebecca Lynne Williams)**
6. Authorizing the County Manager to continue the Lease Agreement for Cornerstone Psychiatric Unit, with Runnells BH Operating, Inc. for the period of January 1, 2021 through December 31, 2021 in an amount not to exceed \$4,667,651.23. **(Freeholder Rebecca Lynne Williams)**
7. Authorizing the County Manager to enter into a contract with SOS Corporation, Pinehurst, NC, to provide computer software license, maintenance and support for Cornerstone Behavioral Health Hospital of Union County for the contract period of January 1, 2021 through December 31, 2021 in the total amount not to exceed \$15,209.89. **(Freeholder Rebecca Lynne Williams)**
8. Authorizing the County Manager to award a contract to Family Promise, Inc. of Summit, NJ for the period of January 1, 2021 to December 31, 2021 in the amount of \$150,000.00, for the 2021 Shelter Diversion Program. **(Freeholder Sergio Granados)**
9. Authorizing the County Manager to award a contract to Prevention Links, Inc., of Roselle, NJ for the period of January 1, 2021 to December 31, 2021, in the amount not to exceed \$110,000.00, for the Union County Helping Hands 365 Program. **(Freeholder Sergio Granados)**

Freeholder Staten asked Director Anderson to elaborate on this item.

Director Anderson advised that this initiative aimed to provide certain resources, including recovery coaches, treatment, and temporary housing for individuals struggling with addiction as well as legal challenges. She thanked Freeholder Hudak for his leadership and efforts relative to the initiative.



Chairman Mirabella thanked Director Anderson and her Department as well as the many volunteers for their efforts relative to the food distribution drives that have provided approximately 700,000 meals to residents in need.

#### OFFICE OF THE COUNTY COUNSEL

Bruce H. Bergen, County Counsel

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There were no questions or comments by the Board.

1. Amending Resolution Number 2020-605 dated August 13, 2020 to increase the appropriation to Florio, Perrucci, Steinhardt, Capelli, Tipton & Taylor, LLC, of Rochelle Park, NJ, for Special Legal services related to the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act ("CARES ACT") in the amount not to exceed \$50,000 for a total contract amount not to exceed \$150,000. **(Chairman Alexander Mirabella)**

#### OFFICE OF THE COUNTY MANAGER

Edward Oatman, County Manager

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There were no questions or comments by the Board.

1. Authorizing the County Manager to enter in to a Shared Service Agreement by and between the County of Union and the Borough of Kenilworth for the sharing of a Certified Public Works Manager for the term commencing on November 6, 2020 and continuing through December 31, 2020. **(Chairman Alexander Mirabella)**
2. Resolution expanding the purpose of the COVID-19 Emergency Non-Profit Grant Agreements with Union County Non-Profit Organizations to include operational costs relating to the acquisition of equipment and technology tools as a response to the COVID-19 Emergency with a CAP of \$40,000 (\$20,000 for PPE and \$20,000 for technology tools) per Non-Profit organization. **(Chairman Alexander Mirabella & The Entire Board)**

#### FREEHOLDER SPONSORED RESOLUTIONS

1. Resolution recognizing the international campaign to End Gender Based Violence by proclaiming November 25th - December 10th as the days of activism against gender based violence and the elimination of violence against women in recognition of the need to eliminate domestic violence in the County of Union; and further Commending domestic violence victim advocates, domestic violence victim service providers, crisis hotline staff, and first responders serving victims of domestic violence for their compassionate support of survivors of domestic violence. **(Freeholder Kimberly Palmieri-Mouded & The Entire Board)**
2. Appointing Anthony Jenkins to the Local Advisory Committee on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse (LACADA) to fill an unexpired term ending December 31, 2022. **(Freeholder Andrea Staten)**

3. Resolution offering this Board's deepest sympathies to the family of Charlie Newman, during their time of sorrow. **(Chairman Alexander Mirabella & The Entire Board)**

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

Chairman Mirabella asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. On a motion made by Freeholder Williams and seconded by Freeholder Kowalski a voice vote showed seven members of the Board voted in the affirmative; with Freeholder Palmieri-Mouded absent.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:34 P.M.

## UNION COUNTY BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS 2020 MEETING SCHEDULE

Please note that meetings are regularly held on Thursday evenings. Agenda Setting Sessions and Regular Meetings are held at 6:30pm 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 6:30pm 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 5, 2020 at 12:00 pm**  
**Assignment Judge Karen M. Cassidy's Courtroom, 2 Broad Street, Elizabeth, NJ**

### 2020 MEETING SCHEDULE

#### AGENDA SETTING SESSION

January 23, 2020

February 6, 2020  
February 20, 2020

March 5, 2020  
March 26, 2020\*\*

April 2, 2020\*\*  
April 23, 2020\*\*

May 14, 2020\*\*\*  
May 21, 2020

June 4, 2020  
June 18, 2020

July 23, 2020

August 13, 2020

September 3, 2020  
September 10, 2020

October 1, 2020  
October 15, 2020

November 5, 2020  
November 12, 2020

December 3, 2020  
December 10, 2020

#### REGULAR MEETINGS

January 23, 2020

February 6, 2020  
February 20, 2020

March 5, 2020  
March 26, 2020\*\*

April 2, 2020\*\*  
April 23, 2020\*\*

May 14, 2020\*\*\*  
May 21, 2020

June 4, 2020  
June 18, 2020

July 23, 2020

August 13, 2020

September 3, 2020  
September 10, 2020

October 1, 2020  
October 15, 2020

November 5, 2020  
November 12, 2020

December 3, 2020  
December 10, 2020

\* March 18, 2020 Special Meeting at 5:30pm was held via conference call due to state of emergency relative to the COVID-19 coronavirus.

\*\* Meeting conducted remotely and electronically due to state of emergency relative to the COVID-19 coronavirus.

\*\*\* Meeting cancelled.

  
James E. Fellethiere, RMC, QPA  
Clerk of the Board