



UNION COUNTY BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS

THURSDAY, AUGUST 13, 2020
AGENDA SETTING MEETING MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Mirabella presided over the meeting and called the meeting to order at 5:04 P.M.

ROLL CALL

Roll call showed, Chairman Alexander Mirabella, Vice Chairman Angel G. Estrada, Freeholder Angela R. Garretson, Freeholder Sergio Granados, Freeholder Christopher Hudak, Freeholder Bette Jane Kowalski, Freeholder Kimberly Palmieri-Mouded, Freeholder Andrea Staten, and Freeholder Rebecca Williams were present.

Also present were County Manager Edward T. Oatman, County Counsel Bruce H. Bergen Esq., and Clerk of the Board James E. Pellettiere.

PRAYER AND SALUTE TO THE FLAG

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

STATEMENT OF COMPLIANCE WITH THE OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT

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

Chairman Mirabella addressed the public:

Good evening, and welcome to another remote meeting of the Freeholder Board. As is our custom, we begin with thanks for the people of Union County, who are looking out for one another, and taking care of each other during the COVID-19 outbreak. All of us have been traveling a very long road. But, none of us have been traveling alone. We are standing together, we are working together, and I am so grateful and proud to be part of the Union County community during this time of crisis.

With that, here are some updates on the County's activities over the past several weeks. And, just a quick reminder that you can get more details about all of these services on the County website, ucnj.org. Our food distribution events continue, and I would like to thank all of our volunteers, partner agencies, and corporate donors for joining hands to help those in need.

Union County's free COVID-19 Test Center at Kean passed a milestone this week. The Test Center has completed 100 days of operation, and it has conducted more than 40,000 tests for residents, essential employees and first responders.

I would also like to remind residents that Union County maintains a Mobile COVID-19 Test Unit. The Mobile Test Unit brings our professional Health Division staff into local communities, to provide COVID tests for seniors and other vulnerable population groups at locations throughout the County. The Mobile Unit has conducted more than 2,000 tests so far. Now we are offering this service to the general public as well. We want to reach all Union County residents who need a test, wherever you are, and regardless of whether or not you have access to a car. So far the Mobile Unit has visited Plainfield, Union Township, Elizabeth, and Winfield. It will also visit Elizabeth again this Saturday, and it will be in Westfield next Thursday. If you are a municipal agency or a nonprofit group, call the Mobile Test Unit to request a visit to your community.

While we are on the topic of tests, I urge everyone in the Union County family to help the contact tracers do their jobs. Their job is to help you protect yourself, your family, your friends, neighbors, and anyone else at risk of infection. They will help you find out if you have been in contact with anyone who has tested positive, and they will help you decide if you need to be tested. Again, they are here to help. So please, if you get a call from a contact tracer, stay on the phone and do your part to keep our community safe.

The outbreak has wreaked havoc with our small business community, as it has across the country. To help our small businesses weather the crisis, we have been putting federal CARES Act dollars to work. On July 9 we authorized \$2 million in assistance for small businesses through the CARES Act. We received more than 750 applications, and due to the overwhelming response we doubled the amount to \$4 million. The additional funds will enable us to focus on certified minority, women, veteran, LGBTQ, and disabled-owned businesses.

We also set aside \$4 million in CARES Act funds to assist local school districts with planning for the fall semester. And, funding from the CARES Act will enable us to expand the County's existing grant program for local libraries.

Turning now to County services, I am very pleased to report that we are now accepting applications from municipalities for our Kids Recreation and Greening Union County grant programs. These programs are funded through the Union County Open Space, Recreation, and Historic Preservation Trust Fund. The Trust Fund has provided our residents with recreation improvements, new trees, and many other civic benefits throughout the years, and it will continue to serve our communities during the COVID-19 outbreak. We have also launched the Local Arts Grant and Re-Grant programs for 2020. These programs, which are funded through the state of New Jersey, provide assistance for art, culture, and history organizations throughout Union County.

Finally, I would like to remind everyone who calls Union County home that the 2020 Census is still under way. The Census determines our share of federal dollars for schools, roads, bridges, and more. The Census also determines our

representation in Congress. You can respond to the Census right now by visiting their website, census.gov, and answering a few basic questions online. It only takes a few minutes and it will make an enormous difference for many years to come.

Before we get to tonight's meeting, I also want to affirm, in the strongest possible terms, our support for the Black Lives Matter movement. The movement continues to earn widespread public support, including here in Union County. Thousands of our residents have advocated peacefully for reform under the Black Lives Matter banner – and under the protection of the Constitution of the United States of America, as well. In support of their efforts, the County has sponsored two Black Lives Matter street murals, in Roselle and Hillside. We hope that these symbols provide an enduring reminder that our nation is still a work in progress. We have a long way to go, until we can fulfill the promise of equal justice and equal rights written into the Declaration of Independence. And if we want to see real progress in our lifetimes, we have all got to put in the work.

APPROVAL OF COMMUNICATIONS

Note and File

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

DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

Laura Scutari, Director

1. Authorizing the County Manager to exercise the only option to extend the contract with SSDC, Novi, MI for medicare and disability monitoring services for one 24-month period. Contract shall lead to reductions in cost for the self-insured health plans of the County. Fees shall be paid only when savings have been certified to occur in an amount not to exceed \$50,000.00 for the 24-month period. **(Chairman Alexander Mirabella)**

Freeholder Granados inquired about potential savings.

Director Scutari advised that this initiative was started three years ago and elaborated on the process through which savings were identified and secured. She added that through the initiative, approximately \$28,000 had been saved.

2. Authorizing the County Manager to award a contract to Medcom, Birmingham, AL to provide Retiree Benefit Billing and COBRA Administration Services from November 1, 2020 through December 31, 2021 in an amount not to exceed 42,000.00, with one 24-month option to extend based on the recommendation of our insurance broker. **(Chairman Alexander Mirabella)**
3. Authorizing the County Manager to award a contract to MTE Turf Equipment Solutions, Inc. West Henrietta, NY for the purchase of Jacobsen lawn mower parts in an amount not to exceed \$25,000.00. **(Chairman Alexander Mirabella)**

4. Authorizing the County Manager to enter into an agreement with F&S Tire Corporation, Edison, NJ through State Contract #19-FLEET-00708, for the purchase of car and truck tires in an amount not to exceed \$25,000.00. **(Chairman Alexander Mirabella)**
5. Resolution declaring various goods as surplus and no longer needed for use by the County, and further authorizing the County Manager to advertise and hold a public auction for said surplus goods. **(Chairman Alexander Mirabella)**

DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Amy Wagner, Deputy County Manager/Director

1. Authorizing the County Manager to amend Resolution 2019-447 dated May 23, 2019 approving the Year 45 2019-2020 Annual Action Plan to include additional CARES Act Funding for ESG, and to apply for and receive funds through the Department of Housing and Urban Development 2019-2020 Substantial Amended Annual Action Plan (Year 45) including the Community Development Block Grant Program and Emergency Solutions Grant Program application for HUD CARES Act Funds. In response to COVID-19 the Federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES) allocated an additional \$2,770,145.00 to the County's CDBG program (CDBG-CV) and \$3,359,923.00 to the County's Emergency Solutions Grant Program for a revised total of \$6,130,068.00. **(Chairman Alexander Mirabella)**

Freeholder Granados recognized the Board as a driving force behind this initiative and asked Deputy County Manager Wagner to elaborate further on the item.

Deputy County Manager Wagner advised that this item was meant to amend an initial spending plan relative to COVID-19. She noted that with the monitoring and oversight of the Department of Human Services, these funds would be used to offer rental assistance programs to qualifying low-income and moderate income residents, noting the tremendous financial needs of landlord and renters due to COVID-19 and the subsequent restrictions. She added that HUD would be responsible for managing the program in accordance with the approved County plan.

Freeholder Palmieri-Moudeed asked Deputy County Manager for an approximate timeline for the aid.

Deputy County Manager Wagner advised that assuming the resolution was approved by the Board later that evening, the necessary documentation would be forwarded to HUD the following day. She added that HUD customarily took 5-10 days to review and approve initiatives. She noted that she expected things to progress fairly quickly after that, given that the County opted to secure organizations that provided these kinds of services and had a solid framework already in place.

2. Authorizing the County Manager to award a contract to Elmwood Square Urban Renewal LLP in the amount for \$500,000.00 of HOME Funds, for the development of five (5) Low Income Units (58 total) in Plainfield. Funds will be

used from repayment of Center for Hope Hospice project. **(Chairman Alexander Mirabella)**

Freeholder Williams asked Deputy County Manager Wagner to provide additional information relative to the project, including the prospective completion date. As a Plainfield resident, she noted that the area had long since been abandoned and she looked forward to advancements being made on the property.

Deputy County Manager Wagner advised that the project had experienced several delays, including the vendor's inability to meet compliance standards, causing the vendor to abandon the project and repay the funds. She also noted that the project would be funded by a tax credit program that was not always available. She added that most of the issues with the project had been addressed and she expected the ground to be broken on the affordable housing project soon.

3. Authorizing the County Manager to accept HOME Investment contract reassignment for Habitat for Humanity of Greater Plainfield and Middlesex County (GPMC) to Morris Habitat for Humanity, INC (MHfH). The merger is to alleviate some financial restraints currently on GPMC operations and will continue to assist Union County residents in the purchasing of affordable single family homes, for the contract period of August 1, 2017 through July 31, 2021 (Year 42) , in an amount not to exceed \$280,000.00. **(Chairman Alexander Mirabella)**

Freeholder Williams asked for additional information relative to this item.

Deputy County Manager Wagner advised that Morris Habitat for Humanity would be taking over GPMC as a means to help the latter operate more effectively. She noted that MHfH had better resources and capabilities to see the project through. She added that the cited item would reallocate money to MHfH to facilitate the merger. On a side note, she expressed the importance of the project, noting that under this initiative qualifying residents played a critical role in the building and improving of properties they would eventually call home.

DEPARTMENT OF ENGINEERING, PUBLIC WORKS & FACILITIES MANAGEMENT

Joseph Graziano, Director

1. Authorizing the County Manager to award the proposed contract obtained through advertised public bidding in accordance with the Local Public Contracts Law N.J.S.A. 40A:11-1 et seq., to T.R. Weniger, Inc., Piscataway, New Jersey for the replacement of East Hazelwood Avenue Bridge, City of Rahway, New Jersey for a contract amount not to exceed \$510,360.00, subject to the approval of the New Jersey Department of Transportation (BA# 17-2020; Union County Engineering Project # 2012-021). **(Chairman Alexander Mirabella)**
2. Authorizing the County Manager to award the proposed contract obtained through advertised public bidding in accordance with the Local Public Contracts Law N.J.S.A. 40A:11-1 et seq., to Sparwick Contracting, Inc., Lafayette, New Jersey for the replacement of Stelle Avenue Bridge, (Pa-1) City of Plainfield, New Jersey for a contract amount not to exceed \$963,312.00, subject to the approval of

the New Jersey Department of Transportation (BA# 18-2020; Union County Engineering Project # 2016-028). **(Chairman Alexander Mirabella)**

Chairman Mirabella requested additional details relative to the award and whether the projected costs aligned with the estimates received.

Director Graziano provided additional information relative to the specs of the project and noted that the project had gone out to public bid. He added that the cited vendor had submitted a proposal that was 24% less than the anticipated cost and was also substantially less than the competing bids.

3. Authorizing the County Manager to award the proposed contract extension originally obtained through advertised public bidding (BA#32-2018) in accordance with the Local Public Contracts Law, NJSA 40A:11-1 et seq: Department of Engineering, Public Work & Facilities, Division of Facilities Management, New Jersey Overhead Door, Bayville, NJ for the purpose of providing Overhead Door & Gate Systems Service, twenty-four (24) consecutive months from August 31, 2020 through August 30, 2022, in an amount not exceed \$124,700.00. **(Freeholder Kimberly Palmieri-Mouded)**

DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE

Bibi Taylor, Director

1. Resolution modifying the 2020 Union County adopted budget in the amount of \$50,000.00 as a result of notification received from the State of New Jersey, Department of Community Affairs for a program entitled: LEAP Fellowship Grant. **(Freeholder Sergio Granados)**
2. Resolution modifying the 2020 Union County adopted budget in the amount of \$71,976.00 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 \$331,000.00 as a result of notification received from the State of New Jersey, Department of Health for a Program Entitled: Local Information Network Communications (LINCS) Grant. **(Freeholder Sergio Granados)**
4. Resolution modifying the 2020 Union County adopted budget in the amount of \$48,205.00 as a result of notification received from the State of New Jersey, Department of Health and Middlesex County for a program entitled: Comprehensive Cancer Control Grant. **(Freeholder Sergio Granados)**

Freeholder Staten asked for additional information relative to this item.

Director Taylor referred the question to Director Anderson.

Director Anderson advised that funds would be used to provide community programs relative to chronic diseases, including diabetes and heart disease, among others.

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICESDebbie-Ann Anderson, Director

1. Amending Resolution Number 2019-917 to increase the amount payable to In Town Motor Lodge, Morris Avenue, Elizabeth, NJ, a for-profit vendor of the Code Blue Emergency Shelter Initiative, will now exceed the Pay to Play threshold of \$17,500.00 with requirement of properly executed pay to play disclosures. This request is directly related to the increase in the number of homelessness due to the Shelter in place order due to the COVID-19 Pandemic which will provide shelter assistance to individuals and families for TANF, GA, and/or emergency assistance recipients for the period of July 23, 2020 through December 31, 2020. There is no change in the total amount of funds and no other for-profit vendor is yet also authorized to exceed the pay to play threshold. **(Freeholder Sergio Granados)**
2. Amending Resolution 2020-513, a contract with Mutual of America, Parsippany, New Jersey, for the implementation of an employee 401(a) benefits plan for county employees not covered under the Public Employee Retirement System (PERS), to reflect an adjustment to an appropriation account with no change in the total amount of the contract or terms. **(Freeholder Sergio Granados)**

Freeholder Hudak inquired about how many employees were under the 401(a) benefits plan as a result of not qualifying for the traditional PERS system.

Director Anderson said that approximately 17 employees were under the alternate 401(a) benefits plan.

3. Amending Resolution Number 2020-514, a contract with Mutual of America, Parsippany, New Jersey, for the provision of Group Life Insurance with Group Accidental Death and Dismemberment Plan for employees not covered under the Public Employee Retirement System (PERS), to reflect an adjustment to an appropriation account with no change in the total amount of the contract or terms. **(Freeholder Sergio Granados)**
4. Amending Resolution Number 2019-963 to reduce the initial grant award for the FY2021 Municipal Alliance to Prevent Alcoholism and Drug Abuse program in the amount of \$372,451.00, to change the grant period to October 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021 and to execute contracts based upon a revised Spending Plan. **(Freeholder Andrea Staten)**
5. Amending Resolution Number 2020-461, to extend the contract with Geographic Solutions, Palm Harbor, FL for continuation of Workforce Information Management Data System, for an additional four months commencing September 1, 2020 through December 31, 2020 in the prorated amount not to exceed \$19,700.00. **(Freeholder Sergio Granados)**
6. Amending Resolution Number 2019-918 to reflect a reduction in NJ Governor's Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse (GCADA) funds by \$372,451.00, and to reflect a revised grant period of October 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021 for the

FY2021 Alliance to Prevent Alcoholism and Drug Abuse Program. (Freeholder Andrea Staten)

Freeholder Hudak inquired about items 4 & 6 and asked Director Anderson to confirm that the cited reductions were a result of COVID-19 and the subsequent restrictions that have lessened the collection of drug and alcohol fines and or relative court costs.

Director Anderson confirmed this to be the case, noting that the contracts were being extended.

7. Amending resolution 2020-284 adopted on 3/26/2020 to reflect additional grant dollars in the amount of \$31,925 to Family Promise-Union County for a new total overall amount not to exceed \$190,736.00 as outlined in the attached spending plan; with no change to the grant term. **(Freeholder Kimberly Palmieri-Mouded)**
8. Amending Resolution Number 2020-337 adopted on 4/23/2020, to reflect a four-month extension of the grant term through December 31, 2020 and award additional funds not to exceed \$236,128.00 for The Gateway Family YMCA to support emergency shelter operations as a result of COVID-19 expenses. **(Freeholder Sergio Granados)**
9. Amending Resolution Number 2019-964, a contract awarded to Family Promise, Summit, NJ to increase the contract award in the amount of \$25,000.00 for a new total amount of \$125,000.00, with no other change in terms. **(Freeholder Sergio Granados)**

Freeholder Staten asked Director Anderson to elaborate on this item.

Director Anderson advised that this initiative aimed to assist residents at risk for eviction and homelessness. She added that additional funds had been secured as a result of COVID-19 and consequently, the increase need in relative services.

10. Authorizing the County Manager to award FY2021 One-Time Alcohol and Drug Abuse Innovative (ADAI) funding in an amount not to exceed \$169,574 to CURA, Inc., from September 1, 2020 through August 31, 2021 and further authorizing the County Manager to terminate funds during the contract period if the listed agency fails to meet contractual obligations. **(Freeholder Andrea Staten)**

Freeholder Hudak inquired about the termination of funding and or the contract.

Freeholder Anderson advised that this item related to a new program and because this item reflected a one-time allocation of funds, the state required the termination stipulation to ensure that the County could terminate the contract and secure a new vendor in the event that the initial non-profit organization could not meet compliance standards.

11. Authorizing the County Manager to enter into a maintenance agreement with Visual Computer Solutions, Inc., of Freehold, NJ in an amount not to exceed \$8,767.50 to maintain the Division of Social Services' Time Management

System/Time Clock for the period of September 1, 2020 through November 30, 2020. **(Freeholder Sergio Granados)**

12. Authorizing the County Manager to award a contract to Community Access Unlimited, Elizabeth, New Jersey to promote youth, teen, and community development through prevention programs including self-empowerment and youth leadership, Interfaith initiatives and collaboration among community programs for youth and families for the period of August 1, 2020 through December 31, 2020 in the amount of \$50,000.00. **(Freeholder Sergio Granados)**
13. Authorizing the County Manager to adopt the Non-Discrimination policy in accordance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 as amended, for the County of Union Paratransit System. **(Vice Chairman Angel G. Estrada)**

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

Andrew Moran, Director

1. Amending Resolution Number 2020-368 and further authorizing the County Manager to accept and expend funds from the New Jersey Department of Health for COVID-19 Response in the amount of \$331,000.00 to support COVID-19 activities related to contact tracing in Union County for a new amount of \$629,072.00 in the LINCS Grant. **(Freeholder Angela R. Garretson)**

Freeholder Granados noted his approval for the increase in funding and asked Director Moran to elaborate further on the item.

Director Moran noted that in light of COVID-19, local health departments were overwhelmed and this item aimed to alleviate some of the pressure. He advised that the monies would be used to fund a COVID-19 coordinating supervisor to oversee contact tracing efforts as well as an epidemiologist. He added that funding would also be used to provide mental health services and support, noting the effects of COVID-19 on mental health.

Freeholder Palmieri-Mouded noted her approval for this initiative, in particular its focus on offering mental health services to affected residents.

Freeholder Garretson inquired about current contact tracing efforts.

Director Moran advised that contact tracing was a local responsibility that currently rested with seven different departments throughout the County. He advised that state databases were being used to secure contact information and subsequently used in tracing efforts. He noted that back in April, health departments were overwhelmed with contact tracing efforts which often proved time-consuming and tedious. He added that 11 contact tracers were currently assigned to Union County and that the County Manager and the Department of Public Safety were pursuing additional tracers.

Freeholder Williams commented that a mobile testing center that had been made available in Plainfield at Mount Oliver Baptist Church the previous weekend. She inquired about how many tests had been conducted.

Director Moran advised that approximately 130 tests had been given.

2. Authorizing the County Manager to accept and execute a Sub-Grant Agreement with Middlesex County for inclusion in the New Jersey Department of Health, Comprehensive Cancer Control Grant in the amount of \$48,205.00 for the period of July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021. **(Freeholder Angela R. Garretson)**
3. Authorizing the County Manager to enter into a contract with Training Specialties Inc., Exton, Pennsylvania, to provide Foam Tender Training for the departments in the Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) region, through the 2017 UASI grant, in an amount not to exceed \$13,500.00. **(Freeholder Angela R. Garretson)**

Freeholder Hudak asked about how many individuals participated in the training and what areas of the County they were from. He expressed his concerns relative to COVID-19 and its effects on training and funding.

Director Moran confirmed that COVID-19 was a determining factor in training operations, noting that the fire academy had delayed their training sessions until receiving clearance from the state fire marshals. He added that trainees were adhering to mask mandates and social distancing standards as a precaution. He advised that this item related to fire training and that 12 departments from the UASI region were participating, including Elizabeth and Springfield. He added that he did not expect funding to be affected by COVID-19, but a potential second wave would require an alternate course of action as it related to training.

Chairman Mirabella noted his recent attendance to the police academy graduation ceremony with Vice Chairman Estrada and expressed interest in arranging a similar ceremony for fire academy graduates in September.

Office of the County Counsel

Bruce H. Bergen, County Counsel

1. Amending Resolution Number 2020-354, a contract with 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"), to increase the appropriation in an additional amount not to exceed \$50,000.00 for a new total amount not to exceed \$100,000. **(Chairman Alexander Mirabella)**

Freeholder Granados inquired about the increase in appropriation.

County Counsel Bergen confirmed that the fee rate for all outside counsel was consistent across the board. He noted the County's need to obtain outside counsel to guide and oversee CARES ACT spending to ensure compliance with federal regulations. He added that he expected additional CARES ACT funding as services and resources expanded, noting potential expansions and or accommodations needed for education and business programs in accordance with COVID-19 restrictions.

Chairman Mirabella noted that he would be interested to have Freeholder Granados and the Finance Committee review the relative expenses. He asked County Counsel Bergen to confirm that monies for outside counsel were covered under the CARES ACT.

County Counsel Bergen confirmed this to be the case.

2. Amending Resolution Number 2020-354, dated April 23, 2020 to reflect a change only to the Account Number utilized to allocate funds 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"). **(Chairman Alexander Mirabella)**

OFFICE OF THE COUNTY MANAGER

Edward Oatman, County Manager

County Manager Oatman spoke relative to the mobile-testing mentioned by Freeholder Williams, noting the intention to expand the service to all 21 municipalities.

1. Resolution authorizing the County Manager to enter into CARES Act Coronavirus Relief Funds Grant Subaward Agreements with Union County School Districts in a total amount not to exceed \$4,000,000.00. **(Chairman Alexander Mirabella)**
2. Resolution Authorizing CARES Act Library Grants in an amount not to exceed \$500,000.00. **(Chairman Alexander Mirabella & The Entire Board)**

Freeholder Palmieri-Mouded inquired about the status of grant funding.

Open Space Trust Fund Administrator Durbin-Drake advised that contingent on the item being approved by the Board this evening, funding would be released to the libraries the following day.

3. Resolution authorizing the County Manager to enter into a Memorandum of Agreement by and between the Union County Improvement Authority and the County of Union, State of New Jersey for the planning, design and construction of a new Union County Government Complex to be undertaken, financed and completed pursuant to the provisions of the New Jersey Local Redevelopment and Housing Law N.J.S.A. 40A:12A-1, et seq. **(Chairman Alexander Mirabella)**

County Manager Oatman advised that this item reflected the preliminary step in the construction of a new government complex, subsequently followed by a formal request for proposals and quotes through a competitive bid process. He noted that the intention of the project was to consolidate workers into the new complex, eliminating the County's need to lease certain properties throughout the area. He added that the project would ideally save the County \$120 million in rental payments over the course of the next 30 years.

Freeholder Garretson inquired about initial proposals and the anticipated costs of the project.

County Manager Oatman noted that costs would be dependent on the bids received, but he expected the project to cost approximately \$125 million. He added that additional information would be furnished to the Board as it was received and the project progressed.

FREEHOLDER SPONSORED RESOLUTIONS

Chairman Mirabella advised that future resolutions should reflect the primary sponsor (s) as well as the Entire Board.

1. Resolution extending the Board's most heartfelt condolences to the family of Shirley Rice, wife of New Jersey Senator Ronald Rice. **(Freeholder Angela R. Garretson, Freeholder Andrea Staten, Freeholder Rebecca Lynne Williams & The Entire Board)**
2. Resolution acknowledging and celebrating the 100th Anniversary of the Red, Black and Green (RBG) flag, representing the colors of the African race and descendants that was first adopted by the United Negro Improvement Association (UNIA) in 1920; and then, nations, and now is a symbol of Black freedom for thousands of Black organizations and movements. **(Freeholder Angela R. Garretson)**

Freeholders Staten and Williams asked to join this resolution; with Chairman Mirabella advising that the resolution would be from the entire Board.

3. Authorizing the County Manager to exercise the third and final option to extend the contract pursuant to Resolution Number 2017-115 to Groundwork Elizabeth, Elizabeth, NJ for continuation of the administration and implementation of the Community Garden Grant in the amount not to exceed \$56,000.00, and continued administration of the Union County Kids Dig In!: A School Garden Grant Program in an amount not to exceed \$50,000.00 both encompassed under the grant program entitled: "Union County Plant A Seed Grant Program" for the period of January 1, 2020 through December 31, 2020, for a total amount not to exceed \$106,000.00. **(Freeholder Christopher Hudak)**
4. Resolution congratulating the Cranford Baseball Team on winning the 2020 Last Dance World Series Tournament Championship. **(Freeholder Bette Jane Kowalski & The Entire Board)**
5. Resolution recognizing August 26, 2020 as Women's Equality Day and commemorating 2020 Women's Equality Day as the Centennial Anniversary of the adoption of the Nineteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution, which prohibits the states and the federal government from denying the right to vote to citizens of the United States on the basis of sex. **(Freeholder Bette Jane Kowalski & The Entire Board)**
6. Resolution offering this Board's sincerest condolences to former Freeholder Deborah P. Scanlon and her family on the passing of her husband, former Mayor and long-time community activist Patrick Scanlon, 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 nine members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:55 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, 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 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. Pelletiere, RMC, QPA
Clerk of the Board