

UNION COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2021
AGENDA SETTING MEETING AGENDA

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, Vice Chair Rebecca Williams, Commissioner Sergio Granados, Commissioner Christopher Hudak, Commissioner Bette Jane Kowalski, Commissioner Lourdes M. Leon, and Commissioner Kimberly Palmieri-Mounded,; with Commissioner Angela R. Garretson absent and Commissioner Andrea Staten absent.

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 Board of Commissioners. Thank you all for joining us tonight.

I would like to start by congratulating Commissioner Sergio Granados on receiving the Salvadorian of the Year Award, from the organization United Salvadorian Leadership. We all know Commissioner Granados for his hard work and dedication to the people of Union County, we very much appreciate this recognition from Salvadorian business and community leaders.

And now, I have an update on Union County's COVID-19 response. So far we have provided 130,000 tests through the Union County Test Center at Kean University, and through our walk-up events around the County. Union County has also vaccinated more than 66,000 residents so far.

I would also like to thank Congressman Tom Malinowski for supporting our efforts.

Congressman Malinowski visited with us at the Union County Vaccine Center at Kean last week. It was a good opportunity to touch base and discuss how we can keep building on our progress, and get as many of our residents vaccinated as quickly as possible. We expect the vaccination numbers to keep climbing as more doses become available, but there is a long way to go, and the winter weather has been a disruption. So please, continue to observe the safety guidelines. Wear a mask, keep your distance, and avoid large gatherings.

Regarding the weather, the Vaccine Center was closed today on account of the storm. All of those appointments will be honored this Saturday, February 20, with the same time as previously scheduled. In addition, the COVID Test Center will be closed on Friday. If you scheduled a COVID test for Friday, please go to ucnj.org/covid19 to reschedule online.

I also want to let everyone know that we are continuing our emergency food distribution events. So far we have provided over 2 million meals to people in our community who need a helping hand during the outbreak, and we will continue providing this essential service. The next food event is coming up at 9:00 a.m. this Saturday, February 20, at the Vo-Tech Schools campus, at 1776 Raritan Road in Scotch Plains. For all the details about testing, vaccines, emergency food, and other resources please visit the County website, at ucnj.org.

Next, as February is Black History Month, I would like to remind everyone that we have scheduled a series of programs in honor of the people and events that have shaped our nation. As one highlight this year, we are celebrating the Divine Nine historically Black fraternities and sororities, including a virtual awards ceremony on February 26. Together, the Divine Nine have produced generations of leaders, achievers and history makers, including Vice President Kamala Harris, and we are very proud to celebrate their legacy during Black History Month.

For more details about all of our programming this month, please visit the County website, ucnj.org.

And now let's turn to the business of tonight's meeting.

PRESENTATIONS BY THE BOARD

A resolution presentation was made by Vocational High School Acting Superintendent of Schools Gwen Ryan to the Board regarding National CTE Month and FFA Week.

Acting Superintendent of Schools Gwen Ryan thanked the Board for recognizing National CTE Month and FFA Week and for their continued support. She attributed the many successes of the students at UCVTS to the unyielding support of the Board and their commitment to ensuring a quality education for all

students, providing them with the resources necessary to compete and succeed in the real world.

She advised that the students at UCVTS had spent the month celebrating technical education through a variety of virtual activities, including guest speakers and panel exhibits, among others. She recognized the great job done by teachers, administrators and staff at UCVTS in continuing to provide a great and rewarding educational experience for students in spite of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Acting Superintendent Ryan referenced the many accolades of UCVTS, including being consistently ranked amongst the top schools in the state and in the nation. She noted that all five of the UCVTS full-time career academies were recognized by the US Department of Education as Blue Ribbon Schools of Excellence.

She once again thanked the Board for their support and for sharing in this celebration of academic excellence and career and technical education at UCVTS. She went on to introduce the students in attendance, providing a brief background relative to their education at UCVTS and their respective achievements. The following students were introduced:

Caleb Prempeh, of Elizabeth, is an 11th grade student and participant of the Health Occupation Student Association (HOSA). Among his many accomplishments, Caleb participated in a program called Medical Internship Navigating Diversity and Sciences (MINDS) and completed a 6 week internship program with Hackensack Meridian School of Medicine. He was also tasked with a capstone project related to opioid prevention in the African American community through the use of medication and psychosocial treatments.

Corey He, of Fanwood, is also an 11th grade student and participant of HOSA. He is also an affiliate of the American Red Cross and is currently running for Northern Regional Vice President. Last year, Corey also placed 2nd in a state medical spelling competition at HOSA. He has expressed an incredible passion for the health sciences, being chosen as a NJ Allied Scholar Nominee relative to his academic achievements and his active desire to improve his school and community.

Jordan White, of Hillside, is a 10th grade student at the Academy for Information Technology (AIT). He placed 1st at the FBLA regional intro to business category. Acting Superintendent Ryan advised that Jordan would be competing in a state leadership conference next month. He was also working to earn an FBLA achievement award as part of a leadership development program and as well as an FBLA community service award. Jordan is also a member of the speech and debate team at UCVTS.

Jamin Brako, of Plainfield, is a senior at the Academy for Information Technology (AIT) and also serves as an IT intern at UCVTS. Jamin is also the President of the UCVTS coding club and lead programmer for a local robotics team in Plainfield. He is also the President of the National Society of Black Engineer – Juniors through Rutgers University. Acting Superintendent Ryan

advised that earlier that week, Jamin had made a presentation to Rutgers University at the I am College Bound event. His presentation related to the importance of STEM as it related to society and how under-represented communities can use divert in STEM fields. Jamin also placed 2nd in FBLA's Regional Cyber Security Challenge and will be one of several students representing UCVTS at an FBLA state leadership conference next month.

Olivia Ruhnke, of Westfield, is an 11th grade student and theater major at the Academy of Performing Arts at UCVTS. She organized the first ever virtual Broadway night and had landed a role in the upcoming virtual musical entitled, "A Musical Review through the Decades" at UC Performing Arts Center on March 12th and 13th. Acting Superintendent Ryan graciously invited the Board of Commissioners to tune into the virtual event.

Natalie Lee, of Westfield, is a senior at the Magnet High School and is a member of the Technical Student Association (TSA), an organization she has belong to since her sophomore year; in January, Natalie was chosen as the national TSA member of the month. This year, she serves as the treasurer of the districts TSA organization and will be competing in a spring state competition relative to webmaster, data science, and geospatial technologies. In previous years, Natalie has placed 3rd in a state bio mimicry competition and 4th place in engineering design. She is currently an intern Bionext Pharmaceuticals and plans to major in biomedical engineering in college.

Alexis Staten, daughter of Commissioner Andrea State, is a senior at the UC Career and Technical Institute (UCCTI) and part of the criminal justice program. She is also a member of the Marine Corps and the Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC) program. She received the Military Order of World War's Award, the highest award issued to a first-year ROTC cadet as well as the Ralph Froehlich Perseverance Award. In addition to participating in the Roselle Junior Police Academy and the UC Sheriff's Youth Academy, Alexis is a member of the national honor society, holds a part-time job, and participates in many community volunteering efforts.

Ahmed Ismaeil, of Cranford, is a senior enrolled in the masonry program at UCCTI. His instructors have noted his tremendous leadership skills and craftsmanship, noting that he always exceeds expectations. This year, Ahmed was chosen to represent UCVTS at the SkillsUSA masonry competition and intends to pursue a career in the engineering field.

Isabella Socha-Soares, a senior from Linden, has proven a tremendous asset to UCVTS and the SkillsUSA program, along with her many club and organization affiliations. She participated in a group competition related to crime scene investigations and placed 2nd. Isabella also mentors younger students involved in similar competitions while also consistently achieving honor roll and high honor roll distinctions.

Acting Superintendent Ryan spoke about FFA week in greater detail and introduced Ms. Joanna Knoblauch the new FFA instructor and advisor, noting

Mrs. Baldassare's retirement the previous year. Acting Superintendent Ryan went on to introduce the students active in FFA.

Lucia Maureillo currently serves as president of the Union County FFA Chapter and has participated in an array of different programs including an FFA advocacy program and legislative leadership day, among others. In the fall of 2020, Lucia placed 5th at an individual event and 2nd in a team event relative to Milk Quality & Products.

Eva La Lande, a junior from Plainfield, currently serves as the 2021 Vice President of the Union County FFA Chapter. She was also chosen as a finalist for the 2020 Spellman Clean Tech Competition and placed 1st in an individual event as well as 2nd in a team event. Eva has participated in a number of competitions and events, including FFA Advocacy & Leadership Day and the Greenhand Leadership Conference, to name a few.

Chairman Mirabella thanked Acting Superintendent Ryan and the students from UCVTS for their participation in tonight's meeting, noting the Board's pride in their many academic accomplishments. He applauded their efforts and encouraged the students to keep up the work, wishing them all the best in their future endeavors.

Commissioner Leon noted that as a former educator, it warmed her hard to be able to share in the success of the students at UCVTS and encouraged them to continue their efforts and pursue their dreams and passions.

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 PROSECUTOR

Lyndsay V. Ruotolo, Acting Prosecutor

There were no questions or comments by the Board.

1. Authorizing the County Manager to apply for and accept funding from the State of New Jersey, Division of Administration, Department of Law and Public Safety, under the SFY 2021 Law Enforcement Officers Training and Equipment Fund (LEOTEF), in the amount of \$10,109.00 for the period of July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021. (Subaward Number LEOTEF 09-21) (**Chairman Alexander Mirabella**)
2. Amending Resolution Number 2019-1075 to reflect revised approved budget of \$32,024.00; and to further authorize the County Manager through the Office of Union County Prosecutor to apply for and accept funding from the State of New Jersey Department of Law and Public Safety, Division of State Police Grant

Program for funding under the FY19 Paul Coverdell Forensic Science Improvement Grant Program for the period of January 1, 2020 through December 31, 2021 (Subaward Number 19-PC-03). **(Chairman Alexander Mirabella)**

OFFICE OF THE UNION COUNTY SHERIFF

Peter Corvelli, Sheriff

There were no questions or comments by the Board.

1. Authorizing the County Manager to enter into an agreement with Clearview Data Systems, Greenville, South Carolina for the Union County Sheriff's Office to purchase a LiveScan System in an amount not to exceed \$21,562.00. **(Commissioner Sergio Granados)**

DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Amy Crisp Wagner, Deputy County Manager/Director

County Manager Edward T. Oatman represented the Department.

There were no questions or comments by the Board.

1. Authorizing the County Manager to apply as the lead agency for the NJ Department of Community Affairs Division of Local Government Services Local Efficiency Achievement Program (LEAP) Challenge Grant. The County of Union and the Borough of Fanwood, Borough of Garwood, Borough of Kenilworth, and the Borough of Roselle, have determined to apply for a LEAP Challenge Grant in the amount of \$150,000.00. **(Chairman Alexander Mirabella)**

DEPARTMENT OF ENGINEERING, PUBLIC WORKS & FACILITIES MANAGEMENT

Joseph Graziano, Director

Director Graziano thanked all the Departments and staff involved in the snow clearing/removal efforts, including Director Ron Zuber and the Department of Parks and Recreation.

1. Authorizing the County Manager to award a contract to ESRI Environmental Systems Research Inc., of Redlands, CA for maintenance and technical support as needed of the ArcGIS Desktop License for GIS Databases for an amount not to exceed \$25,521.67, for the period of March 20, 2021 through March 19, 2022. **(Commissioner Bette Jane Kowalski)**

Commissioner Hudak asked Director Graziano if this item reflected a renewal of an existing package or an addition to an existing service.

Director Graziano advised that this item related to an annual renewal, adding that the cited vendor was a state contract vendor and the only one that could provide the necessary service. He noted that the resource was used by many departments throughout the County including the Prosecutor's Office and the various municipalities as it relates

to tax and road maps. He added that the resource was extensively used and spoke highly of the vendor and their ability to execute their job duties.

Commissioner Hudak agreed that it was a reliable and adaptable resource.

2. Authorizing the County Manager to award a contract to Iron Mountain, Boston, MA for Mobile Paper Shredding Services at all scheduled Union County Mobile Paper Shredding events from May 1, 2021 to April 30, 2023, with potential for two (2) 12 month extension options, in a contract amount not to exceed \$58,240.00. **(Commissioner Bette Jane Kowalski)**

DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE

Bibi Taylor, Director

There were no questions or comments by the Board.

1. Amending the 2021 Temporary Budget Ch. 96 P.L. 1951 (N.J.S.A. 40A:4-20). **(Commissioner Christopher Hudak)**

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

Debbie-Ann Anderson, Director

1. Authorizing the County Manager to enter into a revenue generating agreement with Bridgeway Rehabilitation Services, Elizabeth, New Jersey, for the provision of transportation service through the Union County Paratransit System for Partial Care clients attending their programs, based upon scheduled trips provided by the County on Monday through Friday in the reimbursement amount of \$7.00 per one way trip for the period of January 1, 2021 through December 31, 2021. **(Commissioner Lourdes M. Leon)**
2. Authorizing the County Manager to enter into a revenue generating agreement with Sage Eldercare, Summit, New Jersey, for the provision of transportation services through the Union County Paratransit System for Adult Day Care clients attending their programs based upon scheduled trips provided by the County on Monday through Friday in the reimbursement amount of \$6.00 per one way trip for the period of January 1, 2021 through December 31, 2021. **(Commissioner Lourdes M. Leon)**
3. Authorizing the County of Manager to enter into a revenue generating agreement with Inroads to Opportunities, Roselle, New Jersey for the provision of transportation services through the Union County Paratransit System for Partial Care clients attending their programs based upon pre-scheduled trips provided by the County on Monday through Friday in the reimbursement amount of \$6.00 per one way trip for the period of January 1, 2021 through December 31, 2021. **(Commissioner Lourdes M. Leon)**
4. Authorizing the County Manager to award a renewal contract to the United Way of Greater Union County to provide services under the 2021 Union County Family Support and Prevention (FSP) Program for the period of January 1, 2021 through December 31, 2021 in the total amount not to exceed \$250,000.00; and

furthermore requesting authorization to permit a one-time advance payment of up to one month of the award amount for the agency to carry out the program activities. **(Commissioner Sergio Granados)**

Commissioner Granados asked Director Anderson to elaborate on this item.

Director Anderson advised that this item related to the Family Support and Prevention Program provided through United Way of Greater Union County. She noted that the initiative would provide a variety of resources to families in need including rental assistance, case management, and early intervention as well as crisis intervention. She added that the program was increasingly needed and well received by the community.

5. Amending Resolution Number 2019-917 to reflect that Ratan Irvington LLC dba Howard Johnson, North Plainfield, NJ, is authorized to exceed the Pay to Play threshold amount of \$17,500.00 with requirement of properly executed pay to play disclosures for the Code Blue Emergency Shelter Initiative during winter months of 2019-2020 without an increase to the total contract amount for all vendors of not to exceed \$350,000.00. **(Commissioner Sergio Granados)**

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION

Ron Zuber, Director

1. Authorizing the County Manager to award 2021 History Grants as received by the Office of Cultural & Heritage Affairs to the below listing of sixteen (16) applicants in the amount of not to exceed \$33,000.00. **(Commissioner Andrea Staten)**
2. Authorizing the County Manager to approve a license agreement allowing the Borough of North Plainfield to hold its Community Day Fireworks in Green Brook Park on Saturday, July 10, 2021 (with a rain date of July 11, 2021). **(Commissioner Andrea Staten)**

Commissioner Hudak inquired about additional firework celebrations in 2021 and whether or not other events would be held.

Director Zuber confirmed that the aforementioned request had been the only one received thus far. He added that firework celebrations would be dependent on any forthcoming executive orders resulting from COVID-19. He noted that if similar events were allowed to proceed, the Department's planning team would review and establish the necessary procedures and protocols for holding such events safely, in accordance with state and federal guidelines.

3. Authorizing the County Manager to enter into a Temporary Site Access Agreement between the County of Union and Carpenter Technology of Union Township, for temporary access to Lenape Park in the Township of Union, for the installation of a monitoring well and to conduct water sampling at this site. **(Commissioner Andrea Staten)**
4. 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 Fischer Contracting, Inc of Scotch Plains, New Jersey for the 2021 Wheeler Park Path, Route 1&9, City of Linden, County of Union, New Jersey for an amount not to exceed \$70,655.00. (BA# 9-2021; Union County Engineering Project # 2020-022) **(Commissioner Andrea Staten)**
5. Amending Resolution Number 2019-352 adopted on April 25, 2019, a contract awarded through advertised public bidding in accordance with the Local Public Contracts Law, N.J.S.A. 40A:11-1 et seq., to National Lawn Sprinklers Inc., of White Plains, New York, approving Change Order Number 1 (final) for the 2019 Irrigation Improvement – Galloping Hill Golf Course, Borough of Kenilworth, New Jersey. This change order will reduce the original contract amount by (\$19,602.42) for a new contract amount not to exceed \$178,847.58 (BA# 9-2019; Union County Engineering Project Number 2019-002). **(Commissioner Andrea Staten)**
 6. Authorizing County Manager to enter into an Agreement with Clean-Flo International, LLC, West Chester, PA, for the de-siltation of the ponds in Briant Park and Rahway River Park, for a period of one year from the execution of the Agreement, in an amount not to exceed \$390,440.00. **(Commissioner Andrea Staten)**
 7. Authorizing the County Manager to enter into a contract with the Union County Performing Arts Center, Rahway, NJ, for the purpose of talent acquisition, booking and event days' of facilitation for the 2021 Drive In Concert Series for the period of March 1, 2021 through December 31, 2021 in the amount not to exceed \$250,000.00. **(Commissioner Andrea Staten)**
 8. Authorizing the County Manager to enter into a contract with This Is It! Productions, Jersey City, NJ, to provide professional planning, production, promotion and management services for the 2021 Drive In Concert Series for the period of March 1, 2021 through December 31, 2021, in an amount not to exceed \$181,650.00. **(Commissioner Andrea Staten)**

OFFICE OF THE COUNTY COUNSEL

Bruce Bergen, County Counsel

There were no questions or comments by the Board.

1. Amending Resolution 2021-111 authorizing an agreement with LexisNexis for the purchase of additional law books and materials for the County Clerk's Office in the additional amount not to exceed \$258.00 for the period of January 1, 2021 through December 31, 2021 for a total contract amount not to exceed \$60,897.00. **(Chairman Alexander Mirabella)**
2. A Resolution authorizing the County Manager to execute a Settlement Agreement in the matters entitled Gloria Melgar v. County of Union and Reina Melgar v. County of Union, in the amount not to exceed \$750,000.00, of which the amount of \$240,227.27 shall be paid by the County of Union and the remainder balance being paid by New Jersey Excess Joint Insurance Fund and BRIT Insurance Company. **(Chairman Alexander Mirabella)**

OFFICE OF THE COUNTY MANAGEREdward Oatman, County Manager

There were no questions or comments by the Board.

1. A Resolution to endorse and support a Career and Technical Education Program Expansion Grants application of the Union County Vocational Technical School District, seeking grant funding in the amount of \$7,111,169.00 to support the Peterson Farm – Sustainable Science Academy project. **(Chairman Alexander Mirabella)**
2. A Resolution to endorse and support a Career and Technical Education Program Expansion Grants application of the Union County Vocational Technical School District, seeking grant funding in the amount of \$5,272,125.00 to support the UCVTS Campus – Global Logistics and Supply Chain project. **(Chairman Alexander Mirabella)**

County Manager Oatman asked Vocational High School Acting Superintendent of Schools Gwen Ryan to provide some additional information on the aforementioned items.

Acting Superintendent Ryan advised that through the Securing Our Children's Future Bond Act, UCVTS was seeking grant funding for two programs and grant applications would be submitted in the coming weeks if the items were approved by the Board. She noted that the grant would fund a sustainable science and agricultural program as well as a global logistics and supply chain program. She added that the initial program would make use of the Peterson Farm on Cushing Road in Plainfield. She spoke relative to the invaluable skills these two programs could provide to students, including industry credentials prior to graduation in growing fields, paving the way for students to pursue careers in high skill, high wage, and high demand jobs. She thanked the Board for their support and efforts in facilitating and ensuring quality educational opportunities for the students of UCVTS.

Adjournment

Chairman Mirabella asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. On a motion made by Commissioner Kowalski and seconded by Commissioner Palmieri-Mouded a voice vote showed nine members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:44 P.M.

**UNION COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
2021 MEETING SCHEDULE**

**REORGANIZATION MEETING - SUNDAY, JANUARY 3, 2021 at 12:00 pm
Courthouse Plaza, 2 Broad Street, Elizabeth, NJ & Remotely
Through Teleconference via Zoom Webinar**

2021 MEETING SCHEDULE

AGENDA SETTING SESSION

January 21, 2021

February 4, 2021
February 18, 2021

March 4, 2021
March 25, 2021

April 8, 2021
April 22, 2021

May 6, 2021
May 20, 2021

June 10, 2021
June 24, 2021

July 22, 2021

August 12, 2021

September 2, 2021
September 23, 2021

October 7, 2021
October 21, 2021

November 4, 2021
November 18, 2021

December 2, 2021
December 16, 2021

REGULAR MEETINGS

January 21, 2021

February 4, 2021
February 18, 2021

March 4, 2021
March 25, 2021

April 8, 2021
April 22, 2021

May 6, 2021
May 20, 2021

June 10, 2021
June 24, 2021

July 22, 2021

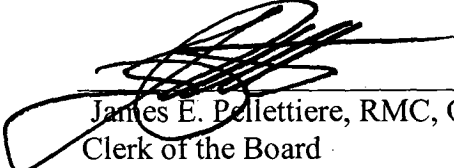
August 12, 2021

September 2, 2021
September 23, 2021

October 7, 2021
October 21, 2021

November 4, 2021
November 18, 2021

December 2, 2021
December 16, 2021


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

Please note that the County Commissioners' meetings are to be regularly held on Thursday evenings and are scheduled to be held on the same evening, with the Agenda Setting Session to commence at 5:00pm and the Regular Meeting to commence as soon as possible after the Agenda Setting Session, unless otherwise noted.