

UNION COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2021
AGENDA SETTING MEETING AGENDA

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 Chair Rebecca Williams, Commissioner Sergio Granados, Commissioner Christopher Hudak, Commissioner Bette Jane Kowalski, Commissioner Lourdes M. Leon, and Commissioner Kimberly Palmieri-Mouded,; 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.

I would like to start by drawing your attention to the red, black and green flying at the County Courthouse in Elizabeth in honor of Black History Month in February. Union County celebrates Black History Month every year with a series of events and programs. Now more than ever, this is a time to rediscover the achievements and obstacles of the past and present, and recommit ourselves to the promise of the future. One of the highlights this year will be a remote, live performance that shines a light on the pioneering aviator, Bessie Coleman. That will be on Tuesday, February 23, and you can get more details on the Black History Month page at ucnj.org. We will be announcing additional events during the month, so please check the County website for updates.

As is our custom, we also begin tonight's meeting with thanks for the Union County community during the COVID-19 outbreak. Everyone has really gone

above and beyond to help protect each other during this time of crisis, and there still is much more to be done. So please, let's all continue to wear a mask, observe social distance, and help keep our Union County family safe.

Turning now to the vaccine supply, we have all been frustrated by the lack of planning and organization on a federal level over the past months. Fortunately, the new Biden administration has already begun mustering federal resources to speed up the supply, and that is going to make a big difference moving forward. In the meantime, beginning this week the Union County Vaccine Center will receive larger allotments from the New Jersey Department of Health. We add more appointments as soon as we get more supplies, so please keep checking our online vaccine scheduler for updates. You can find the link on the County website, at ucnj.org.

And, we are also stepping up our efforts to reach underserved communities, seniors, and residents without Internet access. In order to better assist seniors 65 years of age and older, and those who may not have internet access, the Union County Board of County Commissioners announced the opening of the COVID-19 Vaccination Call Center for residents to schedule an appointment. The Union County COVID-19 Vaccine Call Center will work to answer questions from residents who need more information regarding the COVID-19 vaccine, and can also help arrange transportation if necessary for residents with a confirmed vaccination appointment. The phone number is 908-613-7VAX (7829), and the hours of operation are Monday-Friday, 9 a.m. to 7 p.m., and Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Rest assured, we will not stop until all who want a vaccine are vaccinated.

I would also like to remind everyone that we continue to offer free COVID-19 tests at our drive-up test center on the Kean University campus. We are also continuing to visit local communities with walk-up COVID test events, for which no appointment is needed. For locations, dates, and times please visit ucnj.org/covid19.

Our emergency food distribution events are also continuing, and you can find more details at ucnj.org/covid19.

Before we get to the business of tonight's meeting, I want to thank our Director of Public Works, Joe Graziano, and his hard working staff for keeping our County roads clear during this week's snow storm. In the face of near-blizzard conditions, more than 100 County workers kept the snow plows running to clear 176 miles of County roads from Sunday into Monday. So, thanks to all of you for a job well done.

I also have an update on some of the programs I mentioned at the last meeting.

We cut the ribbon on the new Fire Training Academy in Linden yesterday, which will bring new classroom resources to new trainees, career professionals, and volunteer fire fighters.

We also continue to seek public input for a new ten-year Master Plan for Union County parks. If you would like to contribute your comments, more information is available online at ucnj.org/parks

And finally, on behalf of the Board of Commissioners I would like to congratulate the 60 awardees in our 2021 Union County HEART grant program. This is an annual program that brings music, art, theatre, history and other cultural events to our residents. Our 2021 awardees have designed programs and activities that meet the unprecedented challenge of the COVID-19 outbreak, and we are all looking forward to seeing their projects take shape.

And now, let's start the business of tonight's meeting.

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

1. Amending Resolution Number 2020-287 adopted on 03/26/2020, a contract with The Musial Group, Mountainside, NJ, in order to redesign the majority of the work in the record room and redesign the mechanical systems for the County Clerk's Renovation Project in an attempt to lower the construction cost, and to include minor work on the 4th floor Jury Room for the 2021 Primary election, for an amount not to exceed \$71,000.00, for a new total amount not to exceed \$411,985.00. **(Chairman Alexander Mirabella)**

Chairman Mirabella asked Clerk Rajoppi to elaborate on the scope of the cited renovation project.

Clerk Rajoppi advised that the County Clerk's Renovation Project had been in the works since late 2017, but had experienced several delays due to asbestos and the COVID-19 pandemic. She added that the delays had unfortunately added \$1 million to the overall cost of the renovation. She noted that she had been in contact with the vendor to redesign certain mechanical, electrical, and architectural aspects of the project to curb some of the additional costs that arose. She advised that the additional redesign services would cost approximately \$70,000, but noted the importance of reducing costs as much as possible to avoid paying the additional \$1 million.

Chairman Mirabella thanked Clerk Rajoppi for her forethought in restructuring the office space to meet the growing and changing needs.

2. Amending Resolution Number 2020-898, adopted 12/10/2020, to make any and all purchases of goods and/or services required in the process of preparing and conducting an election to be provided by various vendors and to provide miscellaneous election services which might arise for the 2021 elections, for the period January 1, 2021 through December 31, 2021 in an amount not to exceed \$17,500.00 per individual vendor, for an overall total not to exceed \$28,400.00. **(Chairman Alexander Mirabella)**

BOARD OF ELECTIONS

Nicole DiRado, Administrator

There were no questions or comments by the Board.

1. Amending Resolution Number 2021-104, a hardware, firmware and software maintenance contract with ES&S, Omaha, Nebraska, to reflect account numbers for 2022 (all terms remain unchanged). **(Chairman Alexander Mirabella)**
2. Amending Resolution 2019-1082, a contract with ES&S, Omaha, Nebraska to provide firmware and hardware maintenance coverage for ExpressVote XL voting machines to include a 2021 account number. **(Chairman Alexander Mirabella)**

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 enter into a contract with Robert Santilli, Middletown, NJ to serve as IT Manager for the Union County Prosecutor's Office for the period of January 1, 2021 through December 31, 2021 in an amount not to exceed \$70,000.00. **(Chairman Alexander Mirabella)**

DEPARTMENT OF ENGINEERING, PUBLIC WORKS & FACILITIES MANAGEMENT

Joseph Graziano, Director

Director Graziano thanked Chairman Mirabella and the Board for the earlier recognition relative to the recent snow plowing/clearing efforts as a result of the recent snow storm and thanked his staff for the tremendous effort. He also thanked Director Zuber of the Parks and Recreation Department for his efforts, recognizing the department as a vital component of the whole operation.

There were no questions or comments by the Board.

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 Kalogridis Contracting, LLC of North Brunswick, New Jersey for the Rehabilitation of Kenilworth Boulevard Dam (AKA Lenape Park Dam), Townships of Cranford and Springfield and Borough of Kenilworth, County of Union, New Jersey in an amount not to exceed \$530,000.00. (BA# 2-

2021; Union County Engineering Project # 2016-044) (**Commissioner Bette Jane Kowalski**).

2. Authorizing the County Manager to utilize the County's option to extend the service contract pursuant to Resolution 2018-1038, awarded to Pennetta Industrial Automation, Little Ferry, NJ originally obtained through advertised public bidding (B.A. # 54-2018), for the purpose of providing Computerized Monitoring and Controlling of Automation Systems, for twenty-four (24) consecutive months from February 21, 2021 through February 20, 2023 in an amount not exceed \$148,000.00. (**Commissioner Bette Jane Kowalski**)
3. Authorizing the County Manager to award a contract obtained through advertised public bidding in accordance with the Local Public Contracts Law, NJSA 40A:11-1 et seq: KONE, Inc., Warren, NJ, for the purpose of providing elevator maintenance and repair services for twenty-four (24) consecutive months commencing on March 1, 2021 through February 28, 2023, with the provision for one (1) twenty-four (24) month optional extension, in an amount not to exceed \$515,600.00 (BA # 10-2021). (**Commissioner Bette Jane Kowalski**)
4. 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: to DCRS, Deer Carcass Removal Service LLC, Cream Ridge, New Jersey, for the purpose of road sweeping removal services for the Department of Public Works, for the period of twenty-four (24) consecutive months, with the provision for one (1) twenty-four (24) month extension in amount not to exceed \$156,500.00 (BA-UCCP # 6-2021), with the provision for one (1) twenty-four (24) month extension. (**Commissioner Bette Jane Kowalski**)

DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE

Bibi Taylor, Director

1. Requesting Permission for the Dedication by Rider for Fire Academy Fees required by NJSA 40A: 4-39. (**Commissioner Christopher Hudak**)

Chairman Mirabella asked Director Taylor for an overview of the item.

Director Taylor advised that the item authorized the County to deposit dedicated revenue generated as a result of the fire academy to help offset operational expenses.

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

Debbie-Ann Anderson, Director

1. Authorizing the County Manager to enter into agreement with New Jersey Transit to secure grant funding in the amount of \$300,000.00 with a 20% County match of \$60,000.00 for a total of \$360,000.00 and inclusion in New Jersey Transit's Section 5310 Mobility Management Grant Application submitted to the Federal Transit Administration. (**Commissioner Andrea Staten**)

Commissioner Granados asked Director Anderson to elaborate on this item.

Director Anderson advised that this item related to mobility management services for the 60 and over senior population. She added that this service offered curbside pick-up transportation for seniors relative to medical appointments, shopping, and recreational activities. She noted that over 70,000 residents had been served through this resource.

Commissioner Granados noted the benefits of this resource for the senior population.

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION

Ron Zuber, Director

There were no questions or comments by the Board.

1. Authorizing the County Manager to enter into an agreement with Landscape Solutions LLC., Union, NJ, for the purpose of providing supplemental lawn maintenance and landscaping services to small park areas throughout Union County, for the period of nine (9) consecutive months from April 1, 2021 through December 31, 2021 in an amount not to exceed \$40,000.00. **(Commissioner Andrea Staten)**
2. Amending Resolution Number 2019-83, an Agreement with the United States Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Wildlife Services to reflect a decrease in the total amount awarded for year 2019 by \$3,646.49, and to increase the contract amount for 2020 by an additional amount of not to exceed \$2,628.97 for a total contract amount of not to exceed \$249,681.72 for the period of March 1, 2019 through February 28, 2021. **(Commissioner Andrea Staten)**
3. Authorizing the County Manager to execute a Cooperative Services Agreement with the United States Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Wildlife Services in providing the County of Union with a two-year integrated wildlife damage management program aimed at reducing wildlife damage to human health and safety, property and natural resources in Union County, New Jersey for the period of March 1, 2021 through February 28, 2023 an amount not to exceed \$305,518.00. **(Commissioner Andrea Staten)**
4. Authorizing the County Manager to award 2021 Arts Grants as received by the Office of Cultural & Heritage Affairs. The Cultural & Heritage Advisory Board reviewed thirty-three (33) applications and grant awards have been recommended in the amount of not to exceed \$75,000.00. **(Commissioner Andrea Staten)**

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

Andrew Moran, Director

Chairman Mirabella thanked Director Moran for all his efforts relative to the opening of the new fire academy at the former Juvenile Detention Center in Linden. He recognized the tremendous undertaking of Director Moran and his team, including the fire chiefs and instructors, in getting the facility up and running in a timely fashion, noting that the process took approximately a month. Chairman Mirabella advised that he recently had an opportunity to visit the site and was pleased with the outcome, adding that it was a great resource for training purposes and that the Township of Union and City of Rahway were

already sending recruits to the site for recruit training.

Director Moran thanked Chairman Mirabella and the Board for the recognition and support, noting that the project had been a team effort. Director Moran also thanked the Fire Chief Association for their efforts and assistance in getting the project off the ground.

There were no questions or comments by the Board.

1. Authorizing the County Manager to enter into an agreement with Firefighter One LLC, Sparta, NJ, for the purpose of purchasing Rope Rescue Safety Gear for the UASI Metro Strike Team in an amount not to exceed \$43,950.00. **(Commissioner Sergio Granados)**
2. Authorizing the County Manager to enter into an agreement with AristaTek, Laramie, Wyoming, for the purpose of upgrading existing software and databases in an amount not to exceed \$26,730.00 from the 2020 Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) Grant program. **(Commissioner Sergio Granados)**

OFFICE OF THE COUNTY COUNSEL

Bruce H. Bergen, County Counsel

There were no questions or comments by the Board.

1. Resolution authorizing a Settlement in the matter entitled Gloria Melgar v. Union County et als. in the amount not to exceed \$240,227.27. **(Chairman Alexander Mirabella)**

County Counsel Bergen advised that do to a technical issue with the wording in this item, the Office was requesting to remove this item from the agenda. He added that it would be reintroduced at the following meeting on February 18th.

Chairman Mirabella asked Clerk of the Board Pellettiere to make the necessary adjustments to the Agenda.

Clerk of the Board Pellettiere noted the change and advised that when the time came to vote on the Resolutions, Reso No. 2021-145 would be excluded from the vote in the following meeting as it belonged to the item removed by County Counsel Bergen.

County Counsel Bergen confirmed this to be the case.

Clerk of the Board Pellettiere advised Chairman Mirabella that an additional Commissioner Sponsored Laudatory Resolution noting the Board's support for President Biden's immigration reform would appear in the Regular Meeting Agenda as Reso No. 2021-154.

Chairman Mirabella confirmed the final Resolution to be voted on in the upcoming Regular Meeting would be Reso No. 2021-154.

2. Resolution authorizing a Settlement in the matter entitled Jamar Cherry v. Union County et als. in the amount not to exceed \$55,000.00 (**Chairman Alexander Mirabella**)

OFFICE OF THE COUNTY MANAGER

Edward Oatman, County Manager

There were no questions or comments by the Board.

1. Resolution authorizing and adopting the 2021 Exclusionary Wage increase. (**Commissioner Christopher Hudak**)

COMMISSIONER SPONSORED RESOLUTIONS

Vice Chair Williams advised that a Resolution she had sponsored relative to recognizing Sunday, February 7th as black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day did not seem to be included on the list.

Chairman Mirabella asked Clerk of the Board Pellettiere to note the change, advising that the final Resolution being voted on in the following meeting would be Reso No. 2021-155.

Clerk of the Board Pellettiere confirmed the change.

1. Resolution Approving Constitutional Officers' Salary. (**Commissioner Christopher Hudak**)
2. Resolution offering this Board's deepest sympathies to the family of Eva Hannen, of Cranford, mother of Township Commissioner Tom Hannen. (**Commissioner Bette Jane Kowalski & The Entire Board**)
3. Resolution offering this Board's deepest sympathies to the family of Joan D. Gelber, of Cranford, a senior Deputy Attorney General of the State of New Jersey. (**Commissioner Bette Jane Kowalski & The Entire Board**)
4. Resolution offering this Board's deepest sympathies to County employee and Councilwoman Danni Newbury and her family on the recent passing of her father Charles Newbury. (**Commissioner Kimberly Palmieri-Mouded & The Entire Board**)
5. Resolution recognizing the week of February 1, 2021 - February 7, 2021 as "National Gun Violence Survivors Week" throughout Union County; and further urge the Union County Congressional delegation to pass common-sense gun measures. (**Commissioner Andrea Staten & The Entire Board**)
6. Proclaiming the month of February as Black History Month throughout the County of Union; and further recognizing all celebrations held by municipalities and various organizations throughout Union County that celebrate African American culture and contributions to our American society. (**Vice Chair Rebecca Lynne Williams & The Entire Board**)

7. Resolution recognizing the month of February, 2021, as "National Career and Technical Education (CTE) Month," as designated by the National Association for Career and Technical Education, throughout County of Union. **(Chairman Alexander Mirabella & The Entire Board)**
8. Proclaiming the week of February 20, 2021 - February 27, 2021 as "National Future Farmers of America (FFA) Week" throughout the County of Union. **(Chairman Alexander Mirabella & The Entire Board)**

ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting was adjourned at 5:24 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

REGULAR MEETINGS

January 21, 2021

January 21, 2021

February 4, 2021

February 4, 2021

February 18, 2021

February 18, 2021

March 4, 2021

March 4, 2021

March 25, 2021

March 25, 2021

April 8, 2021

April 8, 2021

April 22, 2021

April 22, 2021

May 6, 2021

May 6, 2021

May 20, 2021

May 20, 2021

June 10, 2021

June 10, 2021

June 24, 2021

June 24, 2021

July 22, 2021

July 22, 2021

August 12, 2021

August 12, 2021

September 2, 2021

September 2, 2021

September 23, 2021

September 23, 2021

October 7, 2021

October 7, 2021

October 21, 2021

October 21, 2021

November 4, 2021

November 4, 2021

November 18, 2021

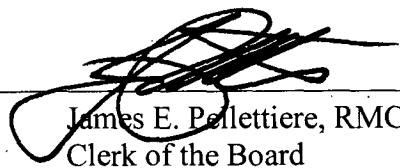
November 18, 2021

December 2, 2021

December 2, 2021

December 16, 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.