



UNION COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2021
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Mirabella presided over the meeting and called the meeting to order at 5:24 P.M.

ROLL CALL

Roll call showed Chairman Alexander Mirabella, Vice Chair Rebecca Williams, Commissioner Angela R. Garretson, Commissioner Sergio Granados, Commissioner Christopher Hudak, Commissioner Bette Jane Kowalski, Commissioner Lourdes Leon, Commissioner Kimberly Palmieri-Mouded, and Commissioner Andrea Staten 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.

APPROVAL OF COMMUNICATIONS

Note and File

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Sunday, January 3, 2021 - Reorganizational Meeting

Chairman Mirabella called for a motion to approve the Minutes of the Reorganizational Meeting. On a motion made by Commissioner Granados and seconded by Commissioner Palmieri-Mouded, roll call showed nine members of the Board voted in the affirmative for the Reorganizational Meeting Minutes.

ORDINANCE FOR ADOPTION

Clerk of the Board Pellettiere read the Ordinance by Title.

**822-2021 ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION AND
ACKNOWLEDGMENT AND DELIVERY BY THE COUNTY OF UNION
OF CERTAIN AGREEMENTS IN RELATION TO COUNTY
GUARANTEED LEASE REVENUE REFUNDING BONDS, SERIES 2021
(UNION COUNTY FAMILY COURT BUILDING PROJECT) OF THE
UNION COUNTY IMPROVEMENT AUTHORITY.**

WHEREAS, the Union County Improvement Authority (the "Authority") has been duly created by an ordinance of the Board of Chosen Freeholders (subsequently renamed as the "Board of County Commissioners") of the County of Union, New Jersey (the "County"), as a public body corporate and politic of the State of New Jersey (the "State") pursuant to and in accordance with the County Improvement Authorities Law, constituting Chapter 183 of the Pamphlet Laws of 1960 of the State, as amended and supplemented from time to time (the "Act"); and

WHEREAS, in 2012, the Authority, at the request of the County, financed the planning, design, construction and equipping of a Family Court Building and a parking deck located in Elizabeth, New Jersey (the "Improvements") and

WHEREAS, the Authority issued its County Guaranteed Lease Revenue Bonds, Series 2012 (Union County Family Court Building Project - Elizabeth) (the "2012 Bonds") to finance the Improvements; and

WHEREAS, the County has determined to refinance the 2012 Bonds through the Authority; and

WHEREAS, the Authority is desirous of assisting in the refinancing of such 2012 Bonds, to the extent permitted by law; and

WHEREAS, the Authority expects to obtain funds to assist the refinancing of the 2012 Bonds through the issuance of its bonds in an amount not to exceed \$48,000,000 County Guaranteed Lease Revenue Refunding Bonds, Series 2021 (Union County Family Court Building Project) (the "Bonds") issued pursuant to a Bond Resolution to be adopted by the Authority entitled "COUNTY GUARANTEED LEASE REVENUE BOND RESOLUTION (UNION COUNTY FAMILY COURT BUILDING PROJECT)" (the "Bond Resolution"); and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the Act, specifically Section 34 thereof (N.J.S.A. 40:37A-77), the Authority is authorized to enter into and perform any

lease or other agreement with the County for the lease to or use by the Authority of all or any part of any public facility or facilities as determined in Section 11 of the Act (N.J.S.A. 40:37A-54); and

WHEREAS, the County intends to lease the real property upon which the Improvements are situated to the Authority pursuant to the terms of a Ground Lease to be dated as of the first day of the month of issuance of the Bonds between the County, as lessor, and the Authority, as lessee (together with any amendments thereof or supplements thereto in accordance with its terms, the "Ground Lease");

WHEREAS, pursuant to the Act, specifically Section 35 thereof (N.J.S.A. 40:37A-78), the Authority is authorized to enter into and perform any lease or other agreement with the County for the lease to or use by the County of all or any part of any public facility or facilities as determined in Section 11 of the Act (N.J.S.A. 40:37A-54); and

WHEREAS, the Authority intends to lease the Improvements and the real property upon which the Improvements are situated to the County pursuant to the terms of a Lease and Agreement to be dated as of the first day of the month of issuance of the Bonds between the Authority, as lessor, and the County, as lessee (together with any amendments thereof or supplements thereto in accordance with its terms, the "Lease Agreement"); and

WHEREAS, during the term of the Lease Agreement, title to the Improvements will reside with the County; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with the terms of the Lease Agreement, (i) the County will manage and operate the Improvements, collect and disburse the revenues realized and pay the expenses incurred in connection therewith; and

WHEREAS, in order to induce the prospective purchasers of the Bonds to purchase same, and to provide additional security, the Bonds shall otherwise be secured by a guarantee ordinance adopted by the County unconditionally and irrevocably guaranteeing the principal of (including mandatory sinking fund installments, if any) and interest on the Bonds, all pursuant to Section 37 of the Act (N.J.S.A. 40:37A-80); and

WHEREAS, in accordance with Section 13 ("Section 13") of the Act (N.J.S.A. 40:37A-56), prior to the issuance of the Bonds, the Authority shall make a detailed report with respect to such financing to the Board of County Commissioners of the County, which report shall include copies or a description of, without limitation, the various financing documents; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with N.J.S.A 40A:5A-6 and N.J.S.A. 40:37A-80 the Authority shall make application, on behalf of the Authority and the County to the Local Finance Board in the Division of Local Government Services of the Department of Community Affairs of the State (the "Local Finance Board") for the Local Finance Board's review of the financing, including, *inter alia*, the Bond Resolution, the Lease Agreement, the Ground Lease, the County Guaranty, and Continuing Disclosure Agreement (the "Financing Documents"); and

WHEREAS, in accordance with the terms of Section 37 of the Act (N.J.S.A. 40:37A-80) and the County Guaranty, the County shall be obligated, if necessary, to levy *ad valorem* taxes upon all the taxable property within the County without limitation as to rate or amount to make the timely payment of the principal of (including mandatory sinking fund installments, if any) and interest on the Bonds; and

WHEREAS, the Authority believes: (i) it is in the public interest to accomplish such purpose; (ii) said purpose is for the health, wealth, convenience or betterment of the inhabitants of the County; (iii) the amounts to be expended for said purpose are not unreasonable or exorbitant; and (iv) the proposal is an efficient and feasible means of providing for the needs of the inhabitants of the County and will not create an undue financial burden to be placed upon the County.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF THE COUNTY OF UNION, NEW JERSEY, as follows:

Section 1. The County Manager, Director of Finance, Deputy Treasurer or such other authorized officer of the County (each an "Authorized Officer") are hereby each severally authorized and directed, upon the satisfaction of all the legal conditions precedent to the execution or acknowledgment and delivery by the County, of the Financing Documents to be so executed or acknowledged by the County.

Section 2. The Clerk of the Board of County Commissioners is hereby authorized and directed, upon the execution or acknowledgment of the Financing Documents in accordance with the terms of Section 1 hereof, to attest to the Authorized Officer's execution or acknowledgment of such documents and is hereby further authorized and directed to thereupon affix the seal of the County to such documents.

Section 3. Upon the execution or acknowledgment and attestation of and if required, the placing of the seal on the Financing Documents as contemplated by Sections 1 and 2 hereof, the Authorized Officer is hereby authorized and directed to (i) deliver the fully executed or acknowledged, attested and sealed documents to the other parties thereto and (ii) perform such other

actions as the Authorized Officer deems necessary, desirable or convenient in relation to the execution and delivery thereof.

Section 4. The Board of County Commissioners of the County hereby authorize the performance of any act, the execution or acknowledgment and delivery of any other document, instrument or closing certificates, which the Authorized Officer, deems necessary, desirable or convenient in connection with this contemplated transaction, and the Board hereby directs the Authorized Officer to execute or acknowledge, and cause the Clerk of the Board to attest and affix the seal to any such documents, instruments or closing certificates, the authorization of which actions shall be conclusively evidenced by the execution or acknowledgment, attestation, affixation and delivery, as the case may be, thereof by such persons. Such closing certificates shall include, without limitation, (a) a determination that any information provided by the County in connection with the preparation and distribution of (i) any preliminary official statement or supplement with relation to the Bonds is "deemed final" for the purposes and within the meaning of Rule 15c2-12 promulgated by the Securities and Exchange Commission pursuant to the Securities and Exchange Act of 1934, as amended ("Rule 15c2-12") and (ii) any official statement or supplement with relation to the Bonds constitutes a final Official Statement for the purposes and within the meaning of Rule 15c2-12, (b) a determination that the Continuing Disclosure Agreement complies with Rule 15c2-12, (c) a determination that any information provided by or on behalf of the County or relating to the County, the Improvements, the Financing Documents or the transactions contemplated thereby in connection with the preparation and distribution of any such Preliminary Official Statement or the Official Statement complies with Section 10 and Rule 10b-5 of the Securities Exchange Act, and (d) any representations, warranties, covenants, certificates or instruments required by any issuer of a municipal bond insurance policy or any other form of credit enhancement securing all or a portion of the Bonds or the issuer of a rating on all or a portion thereof.

Section 5. The County authorizes the Authority to issue its bonds to refinance the 2012 Bonds.

Section 6. The Clerk of the Board is hereby directed to publish and post notice of this ordinance as required by law.

Section 7. Upon the adoption hereof, the Clerk of the Board shall forward certified copies of this ordinance to the County Manager, Director of Finance, County Counsel, Bond Counsel to the County, the Authority, and Bond Counsel to the Authority.

Section 8. This ordinance shall take effect at the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

PUBLIC COMMENT PORTION

The meeting was opened for the purpose of commenting on Ordinance Number 822-2021 only.

Bruce Paterson, of Garwood, made comments relative to Ordinance 822-2021 and the UCIA, and inquired about the cost of the project and who would be paying.

Director Taylor advised that the transaction was for advanced refund bonds in the amount of \$43,125,000 callable on May 1st, 2022. She further advised that the County needed to raise additional funds to put in the refunding escrow. She noted that additional proceeds were needed for cost of issuance and to make up for the difference between the bond closing date and May 1st, 2022. She advised that the estimated amount of the bond would be \$46,180,000, but noted that in order to protect against market conditions and fluctuation, the County opted to use a NTE amount of \$48 million. She confirmed that once the bonds were closed, the difference would be cancelled.

Clerk of the Board Pellettiere confirmed there were no remaining members of the public wishing to speak on Ordinance No. 822-2021.

FINAL READING STATEMENT

Commissioner Christopher Hudak, Fiscal Subcommittee Chairman, moved Ordinance Number 822-2021 for Final Reading and authorized the Clerk of the Board to advertise same in accordance with the law.

On a motion made by Commissioner Hudak and seconded by Commissioner Granados, roll called showed nine members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

ORDINANCE FOR ADOPTION

Clerk of the Board Pellettiere read the Ordinance by Title.

**823-2021 FIXING THE SALARIES OF MEMBERS OF THE UNION COUNTY BOARD
OF COMMISSIONERS, COUNTY MANAGER AND DEPARTMENT HEADS.
AN ORDINANCE FIXING THE SALARIES OF THE UNION COUNTY BOARD
OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS, COUNTY MANAGER AND DEPARTMENT
HEADS**

Be It Ordained by the Union County Board of Commissioners of the County of Union as follows:

Section 1. The salaries of the Members of the Union County Board of County Commissioners, County Manager, County Counsel, Departments Heads and Clerk of the Board shall be as hereinafter set forth and shall be effective as of January 1, 2021.

Position	2021 Salary
Member of the UC Board of County Commissioners	34,135.52

Vice-Chairman of the UC Board of County Commissioners	35,292.44
Chairman of the UC Board of County Commissioners	36,449.37
Director of Corrections	138,373.20
Director of Parks & Recreation	142,587.86
Director of Human Services	142,178.98
Director of Public Safety	145,118.11
Director of Administrative Services	144,848.65
Director of Engineering Public Works & Facilities	156,217.10
Director of Finance/County Treasurer/CCFO	159,754.46
Director of Economic Development/Deputy County Manager	163,754.80
County Counsel	178,500.00
County Manager	185,977.01

Section 2. The required contribution for employee health benefits shall equal 1.5% of the base salary for calendar year 2021; and

Section 3. The amount of the health benefits contributions effective January 1, 2022 shall be the higher of 1.5% of base salary or Chapter 78, s. 39 year four contributions.

Section 4. That this Ordinance shall take effect at the time and manner provided by law.

Section 5. That the Clerk of this Board be and he is hereby authorized to publish a notice in the appropriate newspaper of such introduction and of a public hearing on February 4, 2021, and shall forward one certified copy of final passage to each Clerk of all Municipalities located within the County of Union.

PUBLIC COMMENT PORTION

The meeting was opened for the purpose of commenting on Ordinance Number 823-2021 only.

Bruce Paterson, of Garwood, made comments relative to the cited raises amidst the COVID-19 pandemic and asked the Board to consider a no vote on Ordinance No. 823-2021.

Quaney Palmer Chambliss, of Rahway, inquired about the term *fixing* and asked what compensation County Commissioners receive.

Chairman Mirabella advised that the term *fixing* meant establishing a salary, noting that while he did not know the exact figure, County Commissioners were compensated in the 30K range, adding that the Vice Chair and Chairperson received an additional \$1,000 and \$2,000 respectively from the base salary. He advised that the exact salary amount would be forwarded to Ms. Chambliss following the meeting.

Clerk of the Board Pellettiere confirmed there were no remaining members of the public wishing to speak on Ordinance No. 823-2021.

FINAL READING STATEMENT

Commissioner Christopher Hudak, Fiscal Subcommittee Chairman, moved Ordinance Number 823-2021 for Final Reading and authorized the Clerk of the Board to advertise same in accordance with the law.

On a motion made by Commissioner Hudak and seconded by Commissioner Leon, roll called showed nine members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

ORDINANCE FOR ADOPTION

Clerk of the Board Pellettiere read the Ordinance by Title.

824-2021 ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE GUARANTY BY THE COUNTY OF UNION, NEW JERSEY OF PAYMENT OF PRINCIPAL OF AND INTEREST ON THE COUNTY GUARANTEED LEASE REVENUE REFUNDING BONDS, SERIES 2021 (UNION COUNTY FAMILY COURT BUILDING PROJECT) OF THE UNION COUNTY IMPROVEMENT AUTHORITY IN AN AGGREGATE PRINCIPAL AMOUNT NOT EXCEEDING \$48,000,000.00.

WHEREAS, the COUNTY OF UNION, New Jersey (the "County"), pursuant to the Improvement Authorities Law of the State of New Jersey (the "State"), constituting Chapter 183 of the Pamphlet Laws of the State of 1960, as amended and supplemented (N.J.S.A. 40:37A-44 et seq.) (the "Act"), has heretofore duly created a body corporate and politic known as The Union County Improvement Authority (the "Authority"); and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 80 of the Act, the County is authorized to guaranty unconditionally the punctual payment of the principal of and interest on any obligations of the Authority; and

WHEREAS, the County, in order to assist the Authority with the financing of a proposed refunding on behalf of the County (the "Project"), has determined to provide for the guaranty of County Guaranteed Lease Revenue Refunding Bonds, Series 2021 (Union County Family Court Building Project) of the Authority or the refunding of said bonds (the "Obligations") under the resolution of the Authority entitled "County Guaranteed Lease Revenue Bond Resolution (Union County Family Court Building Project)" or the bond resolution(s) authorizing the refunding of said Obligations (the "Bond Resolution");

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF THE COUNTY OF UNION, NEW JERSEY, (not less than two-thirds of all members thereof affirmatively concurring), AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. This guaranty shall be adopted by the governing body of the County in the manner provided for adoption of a bond ordinance as provided in the Local Bond Law, constituting Chapter 169 of the Pamphlet Laws of 1960 of the State, as amended and supplemented (the "Local Bond Law").

Section 2. Pursuant to and in accordance with the terms of the Act, specifically Section 37 of the Act (N.J.S.A. 40:37A-80), the County is hereby authorized to and hereby shall fully, unconditionally and irrevocably guaranty the punctual payment of the principal of and interest on the Obligations in an aggregate principal amount not exceeding at any time \$48,000,000, which Obligations are to be issued to finance and/or refinance the Project, on such terms and conditions as may be agreed to by and between the County and the Authority and as are reflected in this guaranty and in the guaranty certificate on the face of each Obligation. Upon the endorsement of the Obligations referred to in Section 3 below, the County shall be fully, unconditionally and irrevocably obligated to pay the principal of and interest on the Obligations in the same manner and to the same extent as in the case of Obligations issued by the County, and, accordingly, the County shall be unconditionally and irrevocably obligated to levy *ad valorem* taxes upon all the taxable property within the County for the payment thereof, without limitation as to rate or amount, when required under the provisions of applicable law. This full, unconditional and irrevocable guaranty of the County effected hereby to pay the principal of and interest on the Obligations when due, in accordance with the terms hereof, shall not be abrogated for any reason. Any Obligations which are no longer considered outstanding under the Bond Resolution shall not be counted for the purpose of the \$48,000,000 limitation contained in this guaranty.

Section 3. The Chairman of the Board of County Commissioners, Vice Chairman of the Board of County Commissioners or Director of Finance of the County shall, by manual or facsimile signature, execute an endorsement on each of the Obligations evidencing this guaranty by the County as to the punctual payment of the principal thereof and interest thereon. The endorsement on each Obligation shall be in substantially the following form, and absent the fully executed endorsement in such form on any such Obligation, such Obligation shall not be entitled to the benefits of this guaranty:

GUARANTY BY THE COUNTY OF UNION, NEW JERSEY

The payment of the principal of and interest on the within Bond shall be fully, irrevocably and unconditionally guaranteed by the County of Union, a body corporate and politic of the State of New Jersey (the "County"), in accordance with the provisions of N.J.S.A. 40:37A-80 and the guaranty ordinance of the County finally adopted pursuant thereto, and the County is fully, irrevocably and unconditionally liable for the payment, when due, of the principal of and interest on this Bond, and if necessary the County shall levy *ad valorem* taxes upon all the taxable property within the County, without limitation as to rate or amount, in order to make such payment.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the County of Union, New Jersey, has caused this guaranty to be executed by the signature of its Chairman of the Board

of County Commissioners, Vice Chairman of the Board of County Commissioners or Director of Finance.

COUNTY OF UNION, NEW JERSEY

By:

**Chairman of the Board of County Commissioners,
Vice Chairman of the Board of County Commissioners
or Director of Finance**

The Chairman of the Board of County Commissioners, Vice Chairman of the Board of County Commissioners or Director of Finance is hereby further authorized to execute such other certificates or agreements relating to this guaranty that may be required by the Authority to comply with the terms of the financing documents relating to the Obligations, including, without limitation, (i) any agreements or certificates detailing the time and method that payment under this guaranty shall be made by the County, (ii) any letters of representations or similar undertakings to be executed in connection with the sale of the Obligations, setting forth certain representations, warranties and covenants of the County as an inducement to the purchase of the Obligations, (iii) any certificates deeming "final" (for the purposes of Rule 15c2-12 of the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission) any Preliminary or final Official Statements of the Authority in connection with the Obligations, and (iv) any bond purchase agreement or continuing disclosure agreement executed in connection with the sale of the Obligations. Such further agreements or certificates shall not abrogate the County's responsibilities hereunder.

The Chairman of the Board of County Commissioners, Vice Chairman of the Board of County Commissioners or Director of Finance is hereby further authorized to execute one or more continuing disclosure agreement(s) or other instrument(s) undertaking the secondary disclosure obligations of the County required by Rule 15c2-12 of the United States Securities and Exchange Commission in connection with the issuance of any Obligations by the Authority.

Section 4. It is hereby found, determined and declared by the governing body of the County that:

(a) This guaranty may be adopted notwithstanding any statutory debt or other limitations, including particularly any limitation or requirement under or pursuant to the Local Bond Law, but the aggregate principal amount of the Obligations that shall be entitled to the benefits of this guaranty, being an amount not to exceed \$48,000,000 outstanding at any time, shall after their issuance be included in the gross debt of the County for the purpose of determining the indebtedness of the County under or pursuant to the Local Bond Law.

(b) The principal amount of Obligations entitled to the benefits of this guaranty and included in the gross debt of the County shall be deducted, and is hereby declared to be and to constitute a deduction, from such gross debt

under and for all the purposes of the Local Bond Law (i) from and after the time of issuance of the Obligations until the end of the fiscal year beginning next after the completion of the acquisition or construction of the project to be financed from the proceeds of the Obligations, and (ii) in any annual debt statement filed pursuant to the Local Bond Law as of the end of said fiscal year or any subsequent fiscal year, if the revenues or other receipts or moneys of the Authority in such fiscal year are sufficient to pay its expenses of operation and maintenance in such fiscal year and all amounts payable in such fiscal year on account of the principal of and interest on all such guaranteed Obligations, all Obligations of the County issued as provided in Section 36 of the Act (N.J.S.A. 40:37A-79), and all Obligations of the Authority issued under the Act.

Section 5. The following matters are hereby determined, declared, recited and stated:

(a) The maximum outstanding principal amount of Obligations of the Authority that are hereby and hereunder guaranteed as to the punctual payment of the principal thereof and interest thereon at any time is \$48,000,000.

(b) The purpose described in this guaranty is not a current expense of the County, and no part of the cost thereof has been or shall be assessed on property specially benefited thereby.

(c) A supplemental debt statement of the County has been duly made and filed in the office of the Clerk of the Board, and a complete executed duplicate thereof has been filed in the office of the Director of the Division of Local Government Services in the Department of Community Affairs of the State, and such debt statement shows that while the gross debt of the County, as defined in the Local Bond Law, is increased by this guaranty by \$48,000,000, in accordance with the provisions of the Act, the net debt of the County is not increased, and the obligation of the County authorized by or incurred pursuant to the terms of this guaranty is permitted by an exception to the debt limitations of the Local Bond Law, which exception is contained in the Act.

(d) All other items to be contained in a bond ordinance adopted pursuant to the Local Bond Law are hereby determined to be inapplicable to the County's guaranty of the Obligations hereby.

Section 6. Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40:37A-56, the County hereby consents to the undertaking of the Project by the Authority and the entering into any lease or other agreement.

Section 7. This guaranty shall take effect at the time and in the manner provided by law.

PUBLIC COMMENT PORTION

The meeting was opened for the purpose of commenting on Ordinance Number 824-2021 only.

Bruce Paterson, of Garwood, inquired about potential savings relative to Ordinance No. 824-2021.

Director Taylor advised that upon review of the County's outstanding bonds, this refunding opportunity was scheduled to save approximately 15.97% in net present value savings of refunded bonds, or \$6,887,000. She added that the net present value savings translated to an average annual budget service savings of \$398,826.

Clerk of the Board Pellettiere confirmed there were no remaining members of the public wishing to speak on Ordinance No. 824-2021.

FINAL READING STATEMENT

Commissioner Christopher Hudak, Fiscal Subcommittee Chairman, moved Ordinance Number 824-2021 for Final Reading and authorized the Clerk of the Board to advertise same in accordance with the law.

On a motion made by Commissioner Hudak and seconded by Commissioner Kowalski, roll called showed nine members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

SUSPENSION OF RULES

Suspension of the rules to allow for the joining of both Public Comments on resolutions being offered for adoption, and Public Comments on any governmental issue that a member of the public feels may be of concern to the residents of the county.

Chairman Mirabella called for a motion to Suspend the Rules. On a motion made by Vice Chair Williams and seconded by Commissioner Granados roll called showed nine members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

PUBLIC COMMENT PORTION

The meeting was opened to the public for the purpose of commenting on Resolutions being offered for adoption and any governmental issue that a member of the public feels may be of concern to the residents of the county.

Bruce Paterson, of Garwood, made comments relative to several Resolutions. Relative to Reso No. 2021-132, he inquired about the scope of work. Relative to Reso No. 2021-133, Mr. Paterson asked how many elevators were covered and how much was spent in previous years for the cited service. Relative to Reso No. 2021-134, he inquired about the services provided by the vendor. Relative to Reso No. 2021-135, he made comments about the County's 50% matching grant and inquired about the cited 20% match amount. Relative to Reso No. 2021-140, Mr. Paterson inquired about the increase in cost and asked for a more detailed explanation relative to the project. Mr. Paterson also made general comments relative to Commissioner Hudak and his role as Fiscal Subcommittee Chairman as well as the COVID-19 vaccinations.

Relative to Reso No. 2021-132, Director Graziano advised that the vendor was responsible for monitoring all County boilers as well as maintaining the monitoring system employed. He added that the vendor and County both have access to address boiler-related issues from their respective locations, noting a timely response to potential issues. Relative to Reso No. 2021-133, Director Graziano advised that the vendor was responsible for the inspection, repair, and maintenance of 43 elevators. He added that the last two-year contract cost approximately \$310,000 with another vendor, but he looked forward to working with this new company. Relative to Reso No. 2021-134, Director Graziano confirmed that the vendor would be responsible for the removal of street sweeping debris, not the sweeping itself, noting certain regulations established by the DEP relative to vendors providing these types of services.

Relative to Reso No. 2021-135, Director Anderson advised that the 20% match was established by Federal guidelines.

Relative to Reso No. 2021-140, Clerk Rajoppi cited the increase on the rise in construction costs over the last 3 ½ years as well as the COVID-19 pandemic. She advised that the initial design offered a much more ideal space, but in an effort to mitigate cost, her Office and the vendor were looking at ways to cut corners and still provide a fully functioning space for election-related matters. She noted that while not ideal, the space would allow for more staff to be present, while adhering to social distancing guidelines, in the event of another all mail-in election.

Relative to his general comments, Chairman Mirabella expressed his full confidence in Commissioner Hudak as Fiscal Subcommittee Chairman.

Barbara Schwartz expressed her concerns relative to the COVID-19 vaccine distribution efforts, noting personal difficulties in securing an appointment for inoculation.

Chairman Mirabella thanked Ms. Schwartz for her comment, noting that the County lacked the necessary doses to satisfy the demand. He added that it was a difficult process, but that State was looking at allocating 3 weeks-worth of vaccinations instead of weekly allocations which would hopefully help with the demand.

County Manager Oatman echoed Chairman Mirabella's remarks relative to the lack of allocated COVID-19 vaccinations and the growing frustration from residents, noting that the County Vaccination center was only receiving 1,500 weekly doses from the state.

Jamie Van Sciver expressed her concerns relative to the virtual format of the County Commissioner Meetings and requested video capabilities be extended to members of the public wishing to participate in accordance with N.J.S.A. 10:4-9.3 and emergency legislation PL. 2020.

Ms. Sciver was allowed to share her comments via video.

Chairman Mirabella advised that he believed the County to be in compliance with legislation, but would further the matter to County Counsel Bergen for further review.

County Counsel Bergen advised that the cited laws would be reviewed and the necessary adjustments/changes, if any, would be made to ensure compliance.

Marina Remavin made comments relative to medical marijuana and the difficulties faced by some, including those with disabilities, in securing this resource legally through the limited dispensaries in the County.

Chairman Mirabella noted a dispensary in the Township of Union. He added that since residents had voted yes to legalizing marijuana in November, he expected to see more locations in the future. He advised that the state was responsible for the management and oversight of this measure, but that the County was open to housing more dispensary locations to make it more convenient for residents reliant on this resource.

Sallam Ismial, of Elizabeth, reiterated his previous comments from last year relative to Elizabeth and its history and or involvement relative to the Slave Insurrection of 1741 and asked the Board if the matter had been pursued. He also made comments relative to the lack of black judges in Union County and inquired about rumors relative to a potential COVID-19 outbreak in the County jail and the potential closure of the UC Jail.

Chairman Mirabella advised that additional research was being conducted relative to Mr. Ismial's initial claims and the Board would respond dependent on the outcome. He further advised that judge assignments were overseen by the state.

County Manager Oatman disputed Mr. Ismial's claims about a COVID-19 outbreak, noting that such an event would have to be reported to the state. Relative to the rumored closure of the County Jail, he advised that the County was reviewing the site operations, noting that the County was always looking at ways to improve efficiency and reduce costs.

Charles McClain, of Elizabeth, made comments relative to the potential closure of the UC jail and asked how the prospective savings would be utilized, suggesting some monies be reserved for local job placement and training services.

Chairman Mirabella confirmed that such a closure would potentially yield substantial savings and if the time came, the Board and County Directors would review spending options to best utilize these funds. He added that he thought that allocating some monies for job placement and job training resources was a good idea.

Quaney Palmer Chambliss, of Rahway inquired about the voting ballot drop boxes and whether or not they would be utilized moving forward. She also inquired about rentals of the UC mobile stage. Ms. Chambliss also made comments relative to health services, particularly for black and African American

women, noting alleged discrepancies in treatment. Additional, she inquired about seemingly less COVID-19 inoculations in the black and African American community and whether that was due to a lack of access to the resource or general mistrust in healthcare. She echoed the comments of Mr. Ismial relative to the closing of the County jail and the lack of diversity among UC Superior Court Judges. She also made comments about the Clark Police Department and inquired about any updates relative to the recent investigation efforts by the Prosecutor's Office into the allegations of misconduct.

Chairman Mirabella and Administrator DiRado confirmed that the ballot boxes would continue to be used. Administrator DiRado added that the related legislation required the ballot drop boxes to be open 45 days prior to Election Day.

Relative to the mobile stage, Director Zuber advised that while the County did customarily do these types of rentals, internal policy had temporarily discontinued the practice due to COVID-19 as a means to prevent the sharing of equipment. He noted that the County Park Systems still had a cap of 25 people or less for such gatherings. He advised Ms. Chambliss that she could contact him moving forward for assistance relative to these types of rental needs.

Relative to health services, Director Anderson advised that she would provide additional information as it became available and that she expected to work closely with Director Moran on related initiatives.

Relative to the COVID-19 vaccine, Chairman Mirabella noted that he believed that vaccine availability greatly hindered vaccination efforts, but that he had been in communications with County Manager Oatman regarding educating the public about the importance of getting inoculated and tackling the reluctance.

Relative to the Clark Police Department, Prosecutor Ruotolo advised that the Department could not comment on the ongoing investigation, but information would be forthcoming once the matter was further pursued and resolved.

Relative to the alleged closing of the UC Jail, Chairman Mirabella advised that information would be forthcoming once the details had been sorted, but that no decision had been made as of yet.

Edward Grimes, of Union, noted the importance of being seen during the Commissioner Meeting, and thanked the Board for honoring his request. He also thanked the Board for their swift response in fixing the Watchung Reservation Virtual Tour link. On another note, Mr. Grimes expressed his concern relative to the intersection of Vauxhall Rd and Brookside Drive. He noted that he had made efforts to contact the Township of Union regarding his concerns, but had been unsuccessful. He expressed the dangers of the intersection, in particular with children and the elderly crossing safely. He asked the Board to look into the matter, and if necessary, relay the concerns to the Township of Union for resolution.

Chairman Mirabella advised that he would relay Mr. Grimes concerns to the Township of Union in an effort to resolve the matter.

Cynthia Dawkins echoed the sentiments of Mr. Ismial relative to the lack of diversity among Superior Court Judge. She also made comments relative to an alleged COVID-19 outbreak in the UC Jail and inquired about COVID-19 inoculations for inmates.

Chairman Mirabella advised that in the event the UC Jail was relocated, proper COVID-19 protocols would be observed to ensure a safe transfer. He noted his confidence in Director Charles and his staff relative to testing, quarantining, and ensuring the overall safety of inmates amidst the COVID-19 pandemic.

County Manager Oatman advised that he was unsure about vaccines for the prison population, noting that vaccinations would be made available to those meeting the eligibility standard. He added that Correction Officers and inmates were tested for COVID-19 every two weeks.

Clerk of the Board Pellettiere confirmed there were no remaining members of the public wishing to comment.

RESOLUTIONS

The following Resolutions were offered for adoption:

- 2021-126 COMMISSIONER SERGIO GRANADOS:** 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.

On a motion made by Commissioner Kowalski and seconded by Commissioner Hudak, roll call showed nine members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

- 2021-127 COMMISSIONER SERGIO GRANADOS:** 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.

On a motion made by Commissioner Kowalski and seconded by Commissioner Hudak, roll call showed nine members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

- 2021-128 COMMISSIONER CHRISTOPHER HUDAK:** Requesting Permission for the Dedication by Rider for Fire Academy Fees required by NJSA 40A: 4-39.

On a motion made by Commissioner Kowalski and seconded by Commissioner Hudak, roll call showed nine members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

2021-129 COMMISSIONER CHRISTOPHER HUDAK: Resolution authorizing and adopting the 2021 Exclusionary Wage increase.

On a motion made by Commissioner Kowalski and seconded by Commissioner Hudak, roll call showed nine members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

2021-130 COMMISSIONER CHRISTOPHER HUDAK: Resolution Approving Constitutional Officers' Salary.

On a motion made by Commissioner Kowalski and seconded by Commissioner Hudak, roll call showed nine members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

2021-131 COMMISSIONER BETTE JANE KOWALSKI: 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)

On a motion made by Commissioner Kowalski and seconded by Commissioner Hudak, roll call showed nine members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

2021-132 COMMISSIONER BETTE JANE KOWALSKI: 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.

On a motion made by Commissioner Kowalski and seconded by Commissioner Hudak, roll call showed nine members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

2021-133 COMMISSIONER BETTE JANE KOWALSKI: 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).

On a motion made by Commissioner Kowalski and seconded by Commissioner Hudak, roll call showed nine members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

2021-134 COMMISSIONER BETTE JANE KOWALSKI: 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.

On a motion made by Commissioner Kowalski and seconded by Commissioner Hudak, roll call showed nine members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

- 2021-135 COMMISSIONER ANDREA STATEN:** 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.

On a motion made by Commissioner Kowalski and seconded by Commissioner Hudak, roll call showed nine members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

- 2021-136 COMMISSIONER ANDREA STATEN:** 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.

On a motion made by Commissioner Kowalski and seconded by Commissioner Hudak, roll call showed nine members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

- 2021-137 COMMISSIONER ANDREA STATEN:** 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.

On a motion made by Commissioner Kowalski and seconded by Commissioner Hudak, roll call showed nine members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

- 2021-138 COMMISSIONER ANDREA STATEN:** 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.

On a motion made by Commissioner Kowalski and seconded by Commissioner Hudak, roll call showed nine members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

- 2021-139 COMMISSIONER ANDREA STATEN:** 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.

On a motion made by Commissioner Kowalski and seconded by Commissioner Hudak, roll call showed nine members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

- 2021-140 CHAIRMAN ALEXANDER MIRABELLA:** 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.

On a motion made by Commissioner Kowalski and seconded by Commissioner Hudak, roll call showed nine members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

- 2021-141 CHAIRMAN ALEXANDER MIRABELLA:** 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.

On a motion made by Commissioner Kowalski and seconded by Commissioner Hudak, roll call showed nine members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

- 2021-142 CHAIRMAN ALEXANDER MIRABELLA:** 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).

On a motion made by Commissioner Kowalski and seconded by Commissioner Hudak, roll call showed nine members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

- 2021-143 CHAIRMAN ALEXANDER MIRABELLA:** 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.

On a motion made by Commissioner Kowalski and seconded by Commissioner Hudak, roll call showed nine members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

- 2021-144 CHAIRMAN ALEXANDER MIRABELLA:** 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.

On a motion made by Commissioner Kowalski and seconded by Commissioner Hudak, roll call showed nine members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

2021-145 CHAIRMAN ALEXANDER MIRABELLA: (Resolution was pulled from the Agenda.)

Resolution No. 2021-146 was removed from the Agenda during the prior Agenda Setting Meeting.

2021-146 CHAIRMAN ALEXANDER MIRABELLA: Resolution authorizing a Settlement in the matter entitled Jamar Cherry v. Union County et als. in the amount not to exceed \$55,000.00

On a motion made by Commissioner Kowalski and seconded by Commissioner Hudak, roll call showed nine members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

COMMISSIONER SPONSORED RESOLUTIONS

2021-147 COMMISSIONER BETTE JANE KOWALSKI & THE ENTIRE BOARD: Resolution offering this Board's deepest sympathies to the family of Eva Hannen, of Cranford, mother of Township Commissioner Tom Hannen.

On a motion made by Commissioner Kowalski and seconded by Commissioner Hudak, roll call showed nine members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

2021-148 COMMISSIONER BETTE JANE KOWALSKI & THE ENTIRE BOARD: 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.

On a motion made by Commissioner Kowalski and seconded by Commissioner Hudak, roll call showed nine members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

2021-149 COMMISSIONER KIMBERLY PALMIERI-MOUEDED & THE ENTIRE BOARD: 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.

On a motion made by Commissioner Kowalski and seconded by Commissioner Hudak, roll call showed nine members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

2021-150 COMMISSIONER ANDREA STATEN & THE ENTIRE BOARD: 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.

On a motion made by Commissioner Kowalski and seconded by Commissioner Hudak, roll call showed nine members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

- 2021-151 VICE CHAIR REBECCA LYNNE WILLIAMS & THE ENTIRE BOARD:** 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.

On a motion made by Commissioner Kowalski and seconded by Commissioner Hudak, roll call showed nine members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

- 2021-152 CHAIRMAN ALEXANDER MIRABELLA & THE ENTIRE BOARD:** 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.

On a motion made by Commissioner Kowalski and seconded by Commissioner Hudak, roll call showed nine members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

- 2021-153 CHAIRMAN ALEXANDER MIRABELLA & THE ENTIRE BOARD:** Proclaiming the week of February 20, 2021 - February 27, 2021 as "National Future Farmers of America (FFA) Week" throughout the County of Union.

On a motion made by Commissioner Kowalski and seconded by Commissioner Hudak, roll call showed nine members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

- 2021-154 COMMISSIONER ANGELA R. GARRETSON, & THE ENTIRE BOARD:** Resolution offering the support of this Board to Citizenship 2021's resolution supporting President Joe Biden's immigration reform.

On a motion made by Commissioner Kowalski and seconded by Commissioner Hudak, roll call showed nine members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

- 2021-155 VICE CHAIR REBECCA LYNNE WILLIAMS & THE ENTIRE BOARD:** Resolution recognizing February 7, 2021 as Black HIV AIDS Day throughout Union County.

On a motion made by Commissioner Kowalski and seconded by Commissioner Hudak, roll call showed nine members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

COMMISSIONER REPORTS AND COMMENTS

Commissioner Kowalski thanked the Departments of Parks and Recreation as well as Public Works for their efforts in clearing the roads and parks following the recent snow storm. She noted the many challenges of such an undertaking and thanked the Departments and staff involved for a job well done.

Commissioner Leon echoed the sentiments of Commissioner Kowalski and thanked all those involved for their efforts relative to snow clearing and removal. On another note, in honor of Black History Month, Commissioner Leon shared some background information relative to this observance, encouraging everyone to remember, celebrate, and honor the tremendous contributions of Black and African Americans in the United States.

Commissioner Granados recognized Directors Graziano and Zuber and their staff as well as the various municipalities for their tireless efforts relative to clearing the roads after the recent snow storm. He also echoed the sentiments of Commissioner Leon and wished everyone a happy Black History Month, noting the importance of celebrating the tremendous influence of Black and African Americans on the history of the United States. To close, Commissioner Granados thanked Director Moran for his steadfast efforts relative to COVID-19 testing and vaccinations, noting that the County was already administering 2nd doses to eligible residents.

Commissioner Garretson noted the many, weekly activities taking place around the County in honor of Black History Month. She noted the importance of observing this celebration, especially this year given the new African American Vice President, Kamala Harris. She also spoke relative to Vice President Kamala's affiliation with her sorority Alpha Kappa Alpha, one of nine college-founded Black sororities and fraternities that comprise the Divine Nine, which would be honored by Union County and the Board later this month at a special event. On another note, Commissioner Garretson thanked all the public speakers this evening for expressing their concerns and raising awareness regarding the issues that plague our community as a means to evoke change.

Commissioner Hudak spoke relative to the budget and Mr. Paterson's earlier, ill-informed comments which he deemed inaccurate. He spoke about the County's fiscal health, despite the COVID-19 pandemic, and being able to offer a 2% employee salary increase with no layoffs and a 2021 budget with no increase, similar to last year. He recognized the efforts by County Manager Oatman, Director Taylor and the Fiscal Committee as well as Vice Chair Williams and Commissioners Granados and Palmieri-Mouded in achieving this tremendous feat. He noted that despite comments to the contrary, the Board sympathized with residents going through hardships relative to COVID-19, and has committed to maintaining the essential COVID-19 operations as well as Emergency Food Distribution drives to ensure residents have access to these important resources. He recognized Director Taylor for her leadership and efforts in reviewing finances in the wake of the current financial climate to ensure sound spending and adequate reserves to promote the financial health of Union County. On another note, Commissioner Hudak referenced the earlier comments relative to judge appointments, noting that NJ Senators Scutari and Cryan were focused on tackling the issue at the state level to ensure more diverse appointments. Furthermore, he congratulated Assistant County Counsel Rose Comas for her recent nomination to the position of Superior Court Judge in Union County. He recognized Assistant County Counsel Comas and her many years of experience with the County, noting his approval of the appointment and his confidence that she would make a great addition as a Superior Court Judge.

Commissioner Staten wished everyone a Happy Black History Month, noting that she was honored to be one of three African American Commissioners on the UC Board and one of eighteen in the State of New Jersey. She noted the many upcoming, weekly events scheduled to commemorate the occasion, encouraging residents to participate. She noted that as an African American woman, she empathized with the concerns and issues discussed by some of the public speakers relative to racial disparities, particularly in health care. She recognized that vaccine hesitancy in the African American community could be linked to these disparities, noting the importance of educating the community with regards to the COVID-19 vaccination to ease some of these concerns. On another

note, Commissioner Staten reminded residents that tomorrow, February 5th was National Wear Red Day to raise awareness relative to heart disease in women. To close, she discussed the Board's commitment to its residents, remaining accessible and at the forefront of the COVID-19 pandemic, proving essential services to residents in need.

Commissioner Palmieri-Mouded reminded residents that tomorrow was Healthy Heart Day, noting the dangers of cardiovascular disease, and encouraged residents to schedule important medical appointments that may have been neglected as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. She also recognized the importance of high-quality maternal and child health services for all residents, noting that she would advocate for female health throughout the County. To close, she reminded residents to continue to be safe, wear their masks, and adhere to social distancing guidelines, noting that the end of this COVID-19 pandemic was seemingly near.

Vice Chair Williams echoed her colleagues' comments relative to Black History Month and encouraged residents to remain abreast to the many offerings scheduled throughout the County and the 21 municipalities in honor of this observance. On another note, she spoke relative to the County's vaccination resource, recognizing a job well done by the staff and administration of the site. She recognized the current difficulties faced by residents in securing an appointment for inoculation, noting certain inequity in the availability and administration of vaccines, as well the concerns of residents relative to the COVID-19 vaccination itself. She noted the importance of the Board to serve as ambassadors for the COVID-19 vaccine as a means to ease residents' concerns and combat and counteract some of the misinformation circulating relative to said. She advised that it was important for residents to be properly informed about the vaccination, but that the decision on whether or not to vaccinate was solely at the discretion of the individual after review of the available and reliable data.

Chairman Mirabella confirmed the Commissioner's base salary to be \$33,400, with the Chairman and Vice Chair making more than their counterparts. He noted the tremendous responsibilities and pressures of being a County Commissioner and providing for constituents, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic, noting that they earned every penny of their compensation.

ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting was adjourned at 7:20 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.