



UNION COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

THURSDAY, APRIL 22, 2021
AGENDA SETTING MEETING AGENDA MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Mirabella presided over the meeting and called the meeting to order at 5:08 P.M.

ROLL CALL

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

Chairman Mirabella noted the passing of John DeSimone, Commissioner Chairman of the Union County Board of Elections and asked for a moment of silence in remembrance of Mr. DeSimone...

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

We have a number of program updates for you, and before we get to those I will read the Commissioner Board's statement on the verdict in the murder of George Floyd. A jury of Derek Chauvin's peers heard the testimony and rendered him guilty of murdering George Floyd. Those jurors, from diverse backgrounds and walks of life, represent the America we believe in, one in which justice prevails over the abuse of power, and fact-based deliberation wins out against fear and prejudice. We hope this verdict marks the beginning of a more forceful, united effort to shed the systematic racism of the past once and for all, build a nation

that moves ever closer to the democratic ideals of our founders, and set a worldwide example for all those who cherish freedom and liberty.

Thank you.

Turning now to the COVID-19 pandemic, please visit the County website, at ucnj.org, for details about the following updates. More vaccine appointments are becoming available. If you still need to be vaccinated, please book your appointment online or contact our Vaccine Call-In Center. If you are a homebound senior, call the Division on Aging to register for a home vaccine visit. If you need food assistance during the pandemic, the next distribution event will be on Tuesday, April 27, in Plainfield.

And, I want to thank everyone, staff and volunteers, who has been helping with the food events. To date we have distributed 3.6 million meals to Union County residents impacted by the COVID-19 outbreak. The need is great, and we will continue providing this emergency service in the coming months.

We are also gradually, and carefully, re-introducing activities in our parks, so please continue observing rules for masks and social distance. Last Sunday we cut the ribbon on a new playground at Nomahegan Park. We are offering safety classes for people age 9 and up who want to qualify to use the Archery Range. And, on April 27 there will be an outdoor arts and crafts event for people with special needs.

Also, I want to thank Jonathan Phillips of Groundwork Elizabeth, and his Green Team youth group, and all of their supporters, for organizing the Earth Day event earlier today at Phil Rizzuto Park. If you missed the event, you can still celebrate Earth Day this Saturday, April 24, at the Trailside Nature and Science Center. The Trailside event will feature live animals, nature walks, and many other activities.

And, our countywide recycling programs continue tomorrow with free paper shredding in Plainfield.

I would also like to thank the Prosecutor's Office for hosting the 7th Annual Domestic Violence Symposium earlier today. This event helps to shed new light on prevention and protection as well as prosecution, and it is needed now more than ever during this public health crisis.

Also, please join us in recognizing April as Sexual Assault Awareness Month. You can help raise awareness by wearing jeans on Denim Day, next Wednesday, April 28.

And finally, we have some updates on the Primary Election, which will be held on Tuesday, June 8. Union County Clerk Joanne Rajoppi advises Vote-by-Mail users that she will be mailing out their ballots in a bright yellow envelope, so keep an eye out for that and Board of Election Administrator Nicole DiRado has announced the list of drop box locations and polling places. If you choose to vote in person on Election Day, please visit the Elections office online at ucnj.org/boe, where you can look up your polling place and confirm that it will be open.

And now, let us turn to 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.

DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Amy Crisp Wagner, Deputy County Manager/Director

There were no questions or comments by the Board.

1. Authorizing the County Manager to award funding for the 2021 Infrastructure and Municipal Aid Grant Program in an amount not to exceed \$1,500,025.06 to the twenty-one (21) municipalities in the County of Union. **(Chairman Alexander Mirabella)**
2. Authorizing the County Manager to apply for and accept funding from the State of New Jersey, Department of Transportation, under the Local Aid Infrastructure Fund 2021, to explore creating bike trails and outdoor venues to meet the increased needs of residents for bicycling and recreational opportunities, in an amount not to exceed \$ 100,000.00. **(Chairman Alexander Mirabella)**
3. Resolution of the Union County Board of County Commissioners concurring with the Union County Workforce Development Board's Executive Committee to approve the Revised Program Year 2020 Union County Workforce Area Budget—through UCWDB Resolution No. 2021-08—in accordance with Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act, Final Rules; WorkFirst New Jersey Funding Regulations; and the Workforce Learning Link program requirements. **(Chairman Alexander Mirabella)**

DEPARTMENT OF ENGINEERING, PUBLIC WORKS & FACILITIES MANAGEMENT

Joseph Graziano, Director

Director Graziano introduced Stuart Newman, the new Bureau of Recycling & Planning Chief, to the Board.

Bureau Chief Newman thanked the Board for the opportunity to serve Union County.

There were no questions or comments by the Board.

1. Authorizing the County Manager to apply for the 2020 NJDEP Recycling Enhancement Grant in the amount of \$477,900 and to execute all necessary documents and adopt the proposed spending plan. The Grant will partially fund recycling-related positions, recycling events and programs, associated advertising and educational program costs. **(Commissioner Bette Jane Kowalski)**
2. Resolution granting permission to the Township of Berkeley Heights, Volunteer Rescue Squad to hang banners over Springfield Avenue and Plainfield Avenue from April 19, 2021 thru May 31, 2021 for their Membership Drive. **(Commissioner Bette Jane Kowalski)**

DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE

Bibi Taylor, Director

There were no questions or comments by the Board.

1. Resolution to exceed the County tax levy limit and to establish a CAP Bank (N.J.S. 40A: 4-45.14). **(Commissioner Christopher Hudak)**
2. Resolution Adopting the 2021 County of Union Budget. **(Commissioner Christopher Hudak)**

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

Debbie-Ann Anderson, Director

There were no questions or comments by the Board.

1. Amending Resolution Number 2020-893 to reflect an increase to the Aging Three Year 2019-2021 Area Plan Year 3 contract amount by not to exceed \$2,669,089.00 for a new total of not to exceed \$4,642,891.00 for the period of January 1, 2021 through December 31, 2021. **(Commissioner Andrea Staten)**
2. Authorizing the use of the Competitive Contracting Process, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:11-4.1 et seq., for the provision of electronic medical records and patient billing for Cornerstone Behavioral Health Hospital. **(Vice Chair Rebecca Lynne Williams)**
3. Amending Resolution Number 2021-220, a contract with Prevention Links, Inc., Roselle, NJ for licensed clinical alcohol and drug counselors for the Intoxicated Driver Resource Center (IDRC) to extend the contract for one (1) month for a new contract term of January 1, 2021 through May 31, 2021 in the amount of \$7,750.00, for a new total contract amount not to exceed \$38,900.00. **(Commissioner Sergio Granados)**
4. Authorizing the County Manager to enter into contract with Village Super Market, Inc. dba ShopRite of Union, Springfield, NJ, for the purpose of providing

food for the Union County COVID-19 Emergency Food Distribution events for the period of April 23, 2021 through June 30, 2021 in an amount not to exceed \$515,000.00. **(Commissioner Sergio Granados)**

5. Authorizing the County Manager to enter into contract with Frank M. Gargiulo & Son, Inc. dba Gargiulo Produce, Hillside, NJ, for the purpose of providing food for the Union County COVID-19 Emergency Food Distribution events for the period of April 23, 2021 through June 30, 2021 in an amount not to exceed \$300,000.00. **(Commissioner Sergio Granados)**

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION

Ron Zuber, Director

1. Authorizing the County Manager to enter into a contract with Murray Paving and Concrete, Hackensack, NJ, for the purpose of renovations including demolition, flooring, HVAC, ceilings and bar/mill work at Red Knot at Galloping Hill, through ESCNJ State Approved COOP in an amount not to exceed \$345,020.70. **(Commissioner Andrea Staten)**
2. Authorizing the County Manager to enter into a contract with Signal Electric, Plainfield, NJ, for the purpose of relocation and upgrading of all lighting fixtures and systems at Red Knot at Galloping Hill, through ESCNJ State Approved COOP in an amount not to exceed \$117,567.43. **(Commissioner Andrea Staten)**
3. Authorizing the County Manager to enter into a Non-Exclusive five (5) Year Lease With the City of Rahway for the Concession Stand in Madison Avenue Park in the amount of \$1.00 per year. **(Commissioner Andrea Staten)**

Chairman Mirabella asked Director Zuber to elaborate on this item.

Director Zuber advised that this item reflected a new 5-year lease agreement with the City of Rahway to offer concession services, noting that the Rahway Youth League had been using the Concession Stand.

4. Amending Resolution 2021-165, authorizing the County Manager to award 2021 History Grants, to reflect a change in award recipient from Cranford Historical Society in the amount of \$650 to Cranford Historic Preservation Advisory Board in the amount of \$650 with no change in total amount of Grant Award Resolution. **(Commissioner Andrea Staten)**
5. Authorizing the County Manager to award the proposed concession contract obtained through advertised public bidding in accordance with the Local Public Contracts Law, NJSA 40A:11-1 et seq: Department of Parks and Recreation: Dellano's Food, Long Valley, NJ, for the purpose of providing concessions services at Ulrich Pool and Rahway Snack Stand, for a contract period of two (2) seasons (2021 and 2022) with an extension option for two (2) additional seasons of 2023 and 2024. This is a revenue producing contract. **(Commissioner Andrea Staten)**

OFFICE OF THE COUNTY COUNSELBruce H. Bergen, County Counsel

There were no questions or comments by the Board.

1. Amending Resolution Number 2020-814 dated November 12, 2020 to increase the appropriation to Lum, Drasco & Positan, LLC of Roseland, NJ for legal representation in regards to litigation associated with Redevelopment Projects (Union County Government Complex) in the City of Elizabeth, NJ in an amount not to exceed \$50,000.00 for a total sum not to exceed \$100,000.00. **(Chairman Alexander Mirabella)**
2. Resolution appointing Renaud & DeAppolonio, LLC, Cranford, NJ to represent Director Ronald Charles in the matter entitled Michael David Ivancich v. UC, et als, in an amount not to exceed \$25,000.00. **(Chairman Alexander Mirabella)**

OFFICE OF THE COUNTY MANAGEREdward Oatman, County Manager

1. Authorizing the County Manager to enter into a Memorandum of Agreement with the County of Essex for the relocation of inmates from the Union County Jail on as a needed basis, for a five (5) year period commencing July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2026 at a per diem/per inmate housing fee to be paid by the County of Union to the County of Essex for the duration of the Agreement in accordance with the fee schedule specified in the MOA. **(Chairman Alexander Mirabella)**

Commissioner Hudak asked County Manager Oatman to elaborate on this item.

County Manager Oatman advised that this five-year agreement was the precursor to the closing of the Union County Jail, noting the merge with the County of Essex, effective July 1st. He noted that the agreement came with a 5-year extension option and would save the County of Union approximately \$20 million annually. He added that shuttle services would be available for UC residents to facilitate visits. He also noted that the County had been working with unions to relocate some of the correction officers and civilian employees that would be affected by this action.

COMMISSIONER SPONSORED RESOLUTIONS

1. Resolution recognizing the distinguished career of Jan Lilien as Executive Director of the YWCA Union County and commending her on her leadership in expanding and adapting the mission statement of the YWCA which changed the lives of thousands of individuals throughout the Greater Union County and beyond. **(Commissioner Sergio Granados & The Entire Board)**
2. Amending Resolution Number 2020-887, awarding 2020-2021 Union County STEM Scholars Grants, to include the following schools as award recipients: Hurden Looker School, Hillside in the amount of \$500.00 and Deanna Taylor Academy, Hillside in the amount of \$500.00 in a combined additional amount of \$1,000.00 for a new total amount not to exceed \$25,766.96. **(Commissioner Christopher Hudak & The Entire Board)**

3. Proclaiming the month of May as Older Americans' Month throughout the County of Union. **(Commissioner Lourdes M. Leon & The Entire Board)**
4. Congratulating the following 2020-2021 Women of Excellence as chosen by the Commission on the Status of Women: Monica Goncalves (Education); Pamela Palmieri (Healthcare); Margot Baruch (Women's Advocacy); Joyce Benz (Mental Health Advocacy); Clara Fernandez (Government); Nancy Polow, PhD. (Entrepreneurial/Medical), Diana Pinto-Gomez (Special Education Advocacy); Marian Glenn (Environmental/Activism); Joan Crout (Volunteerism) and Sr. Percylee Hart, RSM (Lifetime Achievement); and further recognition Judy Jenkins-Gaudino on her twenty-five years of dedicated service to the Union County Commission on the Status of Women. **(Commissioner Kimberly Palmieri-Mouded & The Entire Board)**
5. Resolution determining that the 2021 Union County Budget shall be read by title and declaring that the public hearing conditions set forth pursuant to N.J.S.A.:40A: 4-8(1a)(1b) have been satisfied. **(Chairman Alexander Mirabella)**
6. Authorizing the County Manager to appropriate funds to the Union County Performing Arts Center, Rahway, NJ, in an amount not to exceed \$10,000.00 for the purposes of developing support for the arts in Union County and creating cultural and educational opportunities for Union County residents for the calendar year 2021. **(Chairman Alexander Mirabella & The Entire Board)**

ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Mirabella asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. On a motion made by Commissioner Kowalski and seconded by Commissioner Hudak a voice vote showed seven members of the Board voted in the affirmative; with Vice Chair Williams and Commissioner Granados absent.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:30P.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 F. Pelletiere, 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.