

UNION COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

THURSDAY, APRIL 22, 2021
REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Mirabella presided over the meeting and called the meeting to order at 5:31P.M.

ROLL CALL

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

APPROVAL OF COMMUNICATIONS

Note and File

Chairman Mirabella called for a motion to approve Communications. On a motion made by Commissioner Garretson and seconded by Commissioner Kowalski, roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative; with Vice Chair Williams absent.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Thursday, March 4, 2021 - Agenda Setting Session
2. Thursday, March 4, 2021 - Regular Meeting
3. Thursday, March 25, 2021 - Agenda Setting Session
4. Thursday, March 25, 2021 - Regular Meeting

Chairman Mirabella called for a motion to approve the March Meeting Minutes. On a motion made by Commissioner Kowalski and seconded by Commissioner Palmieri-Mouded, roll call showed six members of the Board voted in the affirmative for the Agenda Setting Meeting Minutes of March 4th, with Chairman Mirabella and Commissioner Garretson abstaining; seven members voted in the affirmative for the

March 4th Regular Meeting Minutes, with Chairman Mirabella abstaining; eight votes in the affirmative for the March 25th Agenda Setting Meeting Minutes and seven votes in the affirmative for the March 25th Regular Meeting Minutes, with Commissioner Staten abstaining.

ORDINANCE FOR ADOPTION

827-2021 ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION AND ACKNOWLEDGMENT AND DELIVERY BY THE COUNTY OF UNION OF CERTAIN AGREEMENTS IN RELATION TO COUNTY GUARANTEED LEASE REVENUE BONDS, SERIES 2021 (UNION COUNTY ADMINISTRATION COMPLEX PROJECT) OF THE UNION COUNTY IMPROVEMENT AUTHORITY.

Clerk of the Board Pellettiere read Ordinance 827-2021 by title.

PUBLIC COMMENT PORTION

The meeting was opened to the public for the purpose of commenting on Ordinance Number 827-2021 only.

Bruce Paterson, of Garwood, inquired about the *certain agreements* cited in the ordinance.

Chairman Mirabella noted the scheduled construction of the new Government Complex which would allow the County to eliminate certain leases to offset costs. He noted that he and the Board were excited about the project and its potential cost-saving benefits.

Director Taylor advised that Ordinance 826-2021, adopted earlier this year, authorized the authority to undertake and finance the projected County Administration Complex, noting that the item also authorized the County representatives to execute ground leasing for the site reserved for the new complex, which is also owned by the County. She added that the authority would also be able to execute lease purchase agreements which authorized the ground lease back to the authority to effectuate the respective transaction. She added that once the debt service was paid off, the lease would be terminated and the property would revert back to the County.

Clerk of the Board Pellettiere confirmed there were no additional comments relative to Ordinance No. 827-2021.

FINAL READING STATEMENT

Commissioner Christopher Hudak, Fiscal Subcommittee Chairman, moved Ordinance Number 827-2021 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 eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative; with Vice Chair Williams absent.

ORDINANCE FOR ADOPTION

828-2021 ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE GUARANTY BY THE COUNTY OF UNION, NEW JERSEY OF PAYMENT OF PRINCIPAL OF AND INTEREST ON THE COUNTY GUARANTEED LEASE REVENUE BONDS, SERIES 2021 (UNION COUNTY ADMINISTRATION COMPLEX PROJECT) OF THE UNION COUNTY IMPROVEMENT AUTHORITY IN AN AGGREGATE PRINCIPAL AMOUNT NOT EXCEEDING \$120,000,000.

Clerk of the Board Pellettiere read Ordinance 828-2021 by title.

PUBLIC COMMENT PORTION

The meeting was opened to the public for the purpose of commenting on Ordinance Number 828-2021 only.

Bruce Paterson, of Garwood, inquired about what would happen with the remnants of the \$120,000,000 if it is not entirely consumed.

Director Taylor confirmed that Ordinance 828-2021 was a guaranty bond for \$120 million, adding that the remaining balance would be cancelled if the full amount was not utilized.

FINAL READING STATEMENT

Commissioner Christopher Hudak, Fiscal Subcommittee Chairman, moved Ordinance Number 828-2021 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 Garretson, roll called showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative; with Vice Chair Williams absent.

2021 BUDGET TITLE & COLA/CAP BANK RESOLUTION

The meeting was opened to the public for the purpose of commenting on Resolution Numbers 2021-297 and 2021-298.

Resolution Number 2021-297 allows governments to adopt the budget by title, rather than reading each line item of the budget into the record; and further declares that the public hearing conditions set forth in N.J.S.A.:40A:4-8(1a)(1b) have been satisfied. Resolution Number 2021-298 authorizes the County to exceed the County tax levy limit and to establish a CAP Bank as allowed by state statute.

Relative to Reso No. 2021-298, Bruce Paterson of Garwood, noted that given the anticipated monies being received through federal aid as well as the \$100 million running fund balance, the County had seemingly no need for the CAP Bank in the

near future. He also noted the use of \$6.3 million in a COLA increase and asked the Board to elaborate.

Director Taylor advised that Reso No. 2021-298 authorized the County to establish the COLA which would increase the amount authorized by the DCA from 1% to an additional 2.5%, as authorized by the COLA. She added that it would also allow the Count to bank the difference that is not utilized. She noted that the full \$6.3 million would not be entirely consumed, adding that it was a financial tool to be used as necessary, but under Chairman Mirabella and the Board's leadership, it was not necessary at the present time.

2021-297 CHAIRMAN ALEXANDER MIRABELLA: 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.

On a motion made by Commissioner Hudak and seconded by Commissioner Palmieri-Mouded roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative; with Vice Chair Williams absent.

2021-298 COMMISSIONER CHRISTOPHER HUDAK: Resolution to exceed the County tax levy limit and to establish a CAP Bank (N.J.S. 40A: 4-45.14).

On a motion made by Commissioner Hudak and seconded by Commissioner Palmieri-Mouded roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative; with Vice Chair Williams absent.

2021 UNION COUNTY BUDGET ADOPTION

Chairman Mirabella addressed the public:

Welcome to the official public hearing on the 2021 budget.

With the county and the nation as a whole continuing to feel the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, I once again instructed Fiscal Chairman Chris Hudak and our County Manager to deliver a zero percent tax increase.

And for the second year in a row, we have delivered a zero percent tax increase.

This budget once again maintains all essential services. We also maintain the County's bond rating which is the highest attainable.

And with that, I would like to thank our Finance Director Bibi Taylor, our County Manager Ed Oatman, Deputy County Manager Amy Wagner, and our fiscal Committee for their outstanding efforts.

I would also like to take the time now to introduce our Commissioner Fiscal Chairman Hudak, who will say a few words.

Commissioner Hudak addressed the public:

As the 2021 Chairman of the Fiscal Committee, our committee has helped lead the review of this year's budget over the past few months and we are ready for a final vote tonight after the hearing.

This is the second year in a row that we will be passing a zero percent tax increase.

As we continue to face the COVID-19 Pandemic, we are mindful of its profound impact on all residents. We worked hard with our County Manager and our Finance Director to build a budget that would fund the response to COVID-19, our safety net and normal services as well as the Chairman's initiative Union County Rising.

We once again faced another difficult challenge, but we all came together to meet our goal of a zero percent increase.

I would like to thank my colleagues on the Fiscal Committee for their work in crafting the budget, including Vice Chair Williams and Commissioners Granados, and Palmieri-Moudeed. I also thank County Manager, Ed Oatman, and give special thanks to Business Administrator Bibi Taylor, and her staff for their effort in bringing the budget all together from start to finish.

Finally, I'd like to once again thank Union County's family of directors and employees for their tremendous effort in responding to the pandemic this past year.

OFFICIAL PUBLIC HEARING ON THE 2021 UNION COUNTY BUDGET

The meeting was opened to the public for the purpose of commenting on the 2021 Union County Budget resolution only. This public comment portion is the official Public Hearing on the 2021 Union County Budget.

Bruce Paterson, of Garwood, made comments relative to the 2021 Budget including section 6H, the UCUA and the matching Infrastructure Grants, and the UC jail closure as well as the anticipated monies forthcoming from the federal government through the American Recovery Act.

Chairman Mirabella noted that the County was still awaiting guidance from the federal government relative to the American Recovery Act.

Director Taylor confirmed that the capital ordinances adopted at previous meetings did not add to existing debt as the County would be using capital surplus funds that had been stored away throughout the years for these types of projects. Relative to 6H, she advised that this was related to a rental assistance program

and reflected a new item of revenue included in the 2021 Budget, which was also included on the appropriation side as \$16.6 million under the Department of Economic Development. She added that section D of the budget state form allowed for the inclusion of special revenue items that had to be accounted for and were dependent on award letters. She advised that last year the County had \$101 million in award letters since the CARES ACT funding, noting that special revenue items only totaled \$11 million. She advised that the monies that supplemented by the County from surplus for COVID-related expenses. She added that this year's budget, using the same formula and removing CARES ACT related items and COVID-related items which was \$2.5 million that was put into the County Manager's budget to pay for MRCs needed for staffing and overtime needs to run many of the COVID-19 resource sites. She noted that this year's budget was less than the prior year's by \$307, 721.19. On another note, she referenced the UCIA and certain clean-up that was required to address the prior years' activities. She addressed the Renewable Energy Project, noting that market had crashed but the County still had an obligation to fund and ensure the UCIA recuperates the monies they furnished to run the project, dating back to 2015. She added that under the authority granted by NJ Statute 40:37A-76 the county was authorized to fund and appropriate monies in order to support the UCIA.

Clerk Pellettiere read a comment from Summit Councilman Greg Vartan into the record. Councilman Vartan expressed his gratitude to the Board for their leadership since the inception of the public health emergency. He thanked the Board for providing residents with invaluable resources such as COVID-19 testing and vaccinations while also demonstrating fiscal restraint. Councilman Vartan spoke relative to Summit's respective budget and its aim to reflect the values of its residents while highlighting innovation, transparency, efficiency, and fiscal prudence. He noted his commitment to maintaining and expanding on government services while also keeping his community affordable. He expressed his appreciation for the County delivering another Budget with a 0% tax increase for the 2nd year in a row, especially under such unprecedented circumstances. He added that Summit residents could also be grateful as their tax bill would actually be decreasing this year. He closed by once again thanking the Board for their leadership and encouraged them to keep up the good work.

Clerk Pellettiere read Kenilworth resident John Bury's comment into the record. Mr. Bury noted the inclusion of \$5,299,843.31 in the General Revenue section of the 2021 UC Budget for debt service open space. He noted another \$2,500,000 for park maintenance and inquired about how these monies were determined.

Director Taylor noted the County's employment of miscellaneous revenue not anticipated (MRNA) which also appears in the AFS, noting a sum of \$9.1 million in MRNA revenue that the County actively reviews and collects for revenue the

County cannot forecast and or is so small that tracking of it in the event of mis-payment could adversely affect tax revenue. She added that MRNA items affect fund balance and helps rebuild and regenerate the County's surplus, reminding the public that the County operates under fund accounting and ever item has a different fund. Relative to the Park Maintenance, Director Taylor advised that under the statute that established the Open Space Trust Fund, the County was allowed to use open space revenue to assist with the maintenance of lands acquired for recreational purposes. She added that open space revenue pays for debt services associated with specific projects bought for open space in order to offset cost. She noted that Park Maintenance operations and revenue were determined on the overall amount of County funding. She advised that this year, it was approximately 50% of the park maintenance budget, adding that debt services were tied directly to those projects.

Commissioner Hudak added that in 2012, the County had a 0% surplus, their bond rating was suffering and they were faced with the difficult decision of reducing the workforce. He noted that these past financial hardships spoke to the progress and success of the 2021 Budget presented that evening with a 0% tax increase. He once again thanked Director Taylor and all those involved in the composition and meticulous review of the 2021 Budget.

2021-299 COMMISSIONER CHRISTOPHER HUDAK: Resolution Adopting the 2021 County of Union Budget.

On a motion made by Commissioner Hudak and seconded by Commissioner Leon roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative; with Vice Chair Williams absent.

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 Commissioner Kowalski and seconded by Commissioner Palmieri-Moudeed roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative; with Vice Chair Williams.

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 and asked questions relative to several resolutions. Relative to Reso Nos. 2021-301 & 2021-302, he asked if this item was being funded by CARES ACT funding and why the County was making this purchase rather than relying on local charity food banks. Relative to Reso No. 2021-307, he inquired about the name of the vendor and how it related to the job they had been contracted to perform. Relative to Reso 2021-308, Mr. Paterson inquired further relative to the cited renovations. Relative to Reso No. 2021-316, he asked about the cited projects. Relative to Reso No. 2021-317, he asked for additional information relative to the case. Relative to Reso No. 2021-319, he noted the late inclusion of this item on the evening's agenda.

Relative to Reso Nos. 2021-301 & 2021-302, Director Anderson advised that these vendors had partnered with the County since June 2020 to provide these emergency food distributions covered by original CARES ACT funding. She added that while the County did partner with local community food banks, the cited vendors had greater resources at their disposal to contend with the quantities needed. She added that the contracts were only for two months as the County was waiting for additional federal monies through the American Rescue Plan.

County Manager Oatman added that over 3 million meals had been furnished to residents in need, noting the great need and the vendors' ability to meet that demand.

Relative to Reso No 2021-307, County Manager Oatman advised that the vendor's name was insignificant and did not dictate their capacity to perform the duties they had been tasked to complete. He added the vendor had been secured through a bid process.

Recreational Facilities Director Armando Sanchez confirmed that the vendor had been secured through the appropriate channels and CO-OP, noting their general construction division which is not reflected in the vendor's name.

Relative to Reso No. 2021-308, Recreational Facilities Director Sanchez advised that the Red Knot had been originally conceived with fine dining in mind. As illustrated by the success of the Ashbrook facility, Director Sanchez noted the need and desire for a more casual and open dining experience, especially in light of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Relative to Reso No. 2021-316, Counsel Bergen confirmed that the cited projects related to the new Government Complex. He advised that one of the bidding vendors had filed a lawsuit against the County that would be reviewed by appellate court. He added that as a result of that pending matter, the Office had secured additional litigation services.

Relative to Reso No. 2021-317, Counsel Bergen confirmed that the matter had been filed against the Director of the Department as well as an employee. He added that he could not speak further about the matter as the case was new and still being investigated.

Relative to Reso No. 2021-319, County Manager Oatman confirmed that the matter had been published as necessary and required by law.

Debbie Coury, of Cranford, spoke relative to an issue she had with the UC Performing Arts Center and a performance she had scheduled at the location prior to its impromptu temporary closure. She noted having to secure a new venue and was out additional monies as a result.

County Manager Oatman apologized for the inconvenience the unexpected closure had and advised Ms. Coury that he would work with UCPAC to help her recuperate the money for the additional expenses she incurred.

Clerk Pellettiere read Maria Echeverria, of Elizabeth's comments into the record relative to her concerns about the COVID-19 vaccination.

Vice Chair Williams joined the meeting.

Clerk of the Board Pellettiere confirmed there were no additional members of the public wishing to speak.

RESOLUTIONS

The following Resolutions were offered for adoption:

2021-300 COMMISSIONER SERGIO GRANADOS: 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.

On a motion made by Commissioner Hudak and seconded by Commissioner Garretson roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative; with Commissioner Granados absent.

2021-301 COMMISSIONER SERGIO GRANADOS: 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.

On a motion made by Commissioner Hudak and seconded by Commissioner Garretson roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative; with Commissioner Granados absent.

2021-302 COMMISSIONER SERGIO GRANADOS: 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.

On a motion made by Commissioner Hudak and seconded by Commissioner Garretson roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative; with Commissioner Granados absent.

2021-303 COMMISSIONER CHRISTOPHER HUDAK & THE ENTIRE BOARD: 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.

On a motion made by Commissioner Hudak and seconded by Commissioner Garretson roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative; with Commissioner Granados absent.

2021-304 COMMISSIONER BETTE JANE KOWALSKI: 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.

On a motion made by Commissioner Hudak and seconded by Commissioner Garretson roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative; with Commissioner Granados absent.

2021-305 COMMISSIONER BETTE JANE KOWALSKI: 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.

On a motion made by Commissioner Hudak and seconded by Commissioner Garretson roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative; with Commissioner Granados absent.

2021-306 COMMISSIONER ANDREA STATEN: 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.

On a motion made by Commissioner Hudak and seconded by Commissioner Garretson roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative; with Commissioner Granados absent.

2021-307 COMMISSIONER ANDREA STATEN: 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.

On a motion made by Commissioner Hudak and seconded by Commissioner Garretson roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative; with Commissioner Granados absent.

- 2021-308 COMMISSIONER ANDREA STATEN:** 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.

On a motion made by Commissioner Hudak and seconded by Commissioner Garretson roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative; with Commissioner Granados absent.

- 2021-309 COMMISSIONER ANDREA STATEN:** 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.

On a motion made by Commissioner Hudak and seconded by Commissioner Garretson roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative; with Commissioner Granados absent.

- 2021-310 COMMISSIONER ANDREA STATEN:** 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.

On a motion made by Commissioner Hudak and seconded by Commissioner Garretson roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative; with Commissioner Granados absent.

- 2021-311 COMMISSIONER ANDREA STATEN:** 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.

On a motion made by Commissioner Hudak and seconded by Commissioner Garretson roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative; with Commissioner Granados absent.

- 2021-312 VICE CHAIR REBECCA LYNNE WILLIAMS:** 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.

On a motion made by Commissioner Hudak and seconded by Commissioner Garretson roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative; with Commissioner Granados absent.

2021-313 CHAIRMAN ALEXANDER MIRABELLA: 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.

On a motion made by Commissioner Hudak and seconded by Commissioner Garretson roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative; with Commissioner Granados absent.

2021-314 CHAIRMAN ALEXANDER MIRABELLA: 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.

On a motion made by Commissioner Hudak and seconded by Commissioner Garretson roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative; with Commissioner Granados absent.

2021-315 CHAIRMAN ALEXANDER MIRABELLA: 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.

On a motion made by Commissioner Hudak and seconded by Commissioner Garretson roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative; with Commissioner Granados absent.

2021-316 CHAIRMAN ALEXANDER MIRABELLA: 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.

On a motion made by Commissioner Hudak and seconded by Commissioner Garretson roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative; with Commissioner Granados absent.

- 2021-317 CHAIRMAN ALEXANDER MIRABELLA:** 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.

On a motion made by Commissioner Hudak and seconded by Commissioner Garretson roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative; with Commissioner Granados absent.

- 2021-318 CHAIRMAN ALEXANDER MIRABELLA, & THE ENTIRE BOARD:** 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.

On a motion made by Commissioner Hudak and seconded by Commissioner Garretson roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative; with Commissioner Granados absent.

- 2021-319 CHAIRMAN ALEXANDER MIRABELLA:** 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.

On a motion made by Commissioner Hudak and seconded by Commissioner Garretson roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative; with Commissioner Granados absent.

COMMISSIONER SPONSORED RESOLUTIONS

- 2021-320 COMMISSIONER SERGIO GRANADOS & THE ENTIRE BOARD:** 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.

On a motion made by Commissioner Hudak and seconded by Commissioner Garretson roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative; with Commissioner Granados absent.

- 2021-321 COMMISSIONER LOURDES M. LEON & THE ENTIRE BOARD:** Proclaiming the month of May as Older Americans' Month throughout the County of Union.

On a motion made by Commissioner Hudak and seconded by Commissioner Garretson roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative; with Commissioner Granados absent.

2021-322 COMMISSIONER KIMBERLY PALMIERI-MOUDED & THE ENTIRE BOARD: 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.

On a motion made by Commissioner Hudak and seconded by Commissioner Garretson roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative; with Commissioner Granados absent.

COMMISSIONER REPORTS AND COMMENTS

Commissioner Hudak spoke relative to Reso No. 2021-313, noting his excitement at being able to introduce this item for the 7th year in a row. He added that collectively the County had furnished approximately \$10.5 million in matching grants from the Runnells trust to the 21 municipalities to aid in road resurfacing projects and other infrastructure initiatives. He noted the importance of this grant in allowing municipalities to leverage funds and make necessary costly improvements and thanked the Board for once again supporting this initiative.

Commissioner Leon once again thanked the staff and volunteers for their outstanding efforts relative to providing COVID-19 vaccinations, testing, and emergency food distribution as well as some socially-distanced entertainment opportunities for residents to enjoy during the COVID-19 pandemic. She spoke relative to attending her first ribbon-cutting event for the new playground at Nomahegan Park in Cranford, noting the playground as a wonderful addition to the park system. She closed by thanking Director Zuber and his staff for their hard work in facilitating this addition.

Commissioner Kowalski thanked her Board colleagues as well as the Union County Administration, Directors, and staff for presenting such a successful 2021 Budget. In particular, she thanked Commissioner and Fiscal Subcommittee Chairman Hudak, County Manager Oatman, Deputy County Manager Wagner, Finance Director Taylor and Chairman Mirabella for their tremendous efforts and leadership to this effect. To close, she also spoke relative to the recent unveiling of the new playground at Nomahegan Park and thanked Parks and Recreation Director Zuber and his staff for their efforts. In observance of Earth Day, she encouraged residents to volunteer with local clean-up efforts.

Commissioner Staten wished residents a Happy Earth Day and likewise encouraged residents to do their part and volunteer in an effort to keep their communities and planet

clean. She reminded residents to visit the County website and or social media accounts to remain abreast relative to the many resources and upcoming activities being offered. On another note, she reminded residents that there were appointments available to receive the COVID-19 vaccine, noting the County had administered approximately 78,000 doses thus far. To close, she congratulated all the graduates and soon-to-be graduates throughout the County and wished them well on their future endeavors.

Commissioner Garretson spoke relative to the verdict in the George Floyd trial and noted the important precedent set by the conviction of Derek Chauvin. She noted the feelings and reactions evoked by the tragic and avoidable circumstances of that day and how the country united around the quest for justice for George Floyd and others that have fallen victim to police misconduct and brutality. She noted that the NJ Black County Officials organization continued to rally against such actions, recognizing the need to continue to demonstrate and mobilize against such treatment and answer the call of social justice. She noted her approval relative to the verdict against Derek Chauvin, adding that much work still remained to ensure that nothing of the like ever happened again. To close, she spoke relative to the closing of the UC Jail, noting that while the decision was difficult the Board was committed to ensuring a smooth transition and curb some of the negative consequences of such a major decision.

Commissioner Palmieri-Mouded wished residents a Happy Earth Day, adding that she had joined Groundwork Elizabeth at Phil Rizzuto Park earlier today for tree-planting and clean-up activities. She noted that it was wonderful to see so many people, particularly young people, coming together and volunteering to make their communities better and cleaner. Relative to upcoming events, Commissioner Palmieri-Mouded encouraged residents and their families to visit the Trailside and Nature Science Center on Saturday to enjoy a wonderful wildlife art display constructed out of reused water bottles. To close, she congratulated all the women that had been honored by the Women of Excellence award.

Vice Chair Williams echoed the sentiments of her colleagues and wished everyone a Happy Earth Day. She also expressed her approval relative to the conviction of Derek Chauvin in the murder of George Floyd. On another note, Vice Chair Williams spoke relative to her virtual participation in UCC's Foundation Scholarship Awards reception noting that it was beautifully executed and wonderful to be able to hear from the honored students. She thanked UCC President McMenamin and the Board of Trustees for their partnership and efforts, noting a total of \$1.2 million given in scholarship monies. To close, she wished all recent graduates luck and success in their future endeavors.

Chairman Mirabella noted the Commissioner, formerly Freeholder, Scholarship program that has awarded many qualified students with monies towards their education pursuits. He noted the invaluable partnership with Union County College and being able to provide a quality education to many deserving students. On another note, he spoke relative to the historic nature of tonight's meeting and how several of the voted items would serve to transform County government and operations for years to come, particularly the UC Jail closure. He thanked County Manager Oatman for navigating the negotiations relative to this important decision and extending resources to staff negatively affected by this action. Chairman Mirabella also spoke relative to the projected Government Complex that would allow the County to save additional monies by

consolidating County Departments and Offices in one location and simultaneously extinguishing the need for existing lease agreements. He recognized and thanked the Board, County Manager Oatman, Deputy County Manager Wagner, and the various Directors for their efforts, noting that the County had a great team, particularly highlighted during the COVID-19 pandemic. He also thanked Robert Charkowsky, Director of Digital, Web, and Social Media Services for his tremendous efforts relative to the various IT needs of the Board in executing meetings. To close, Chairman Mirabella encouraged residents to continue wearing their masks and distance socially as well as get vaccinated, noting that resources would soon focus on convincing reluctant residents to get inoculated.

ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting was adjourned at 6:53 P.M.

**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

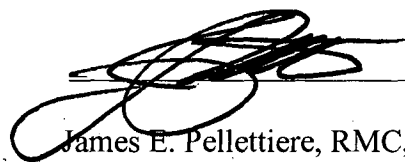
August 12, 2021

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.