



## UNION COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

THURSDAY, APRIL 8, 2021  
AGENDA SETTING MEETING AGENDA MINUTES

### CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Mirabella presided over the meeting and called the meeting to order at 5:03 P.M.

### ROLL CALL

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

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

*We have a number of program updates for you, but I would like to start with a reminder for everyone in the Union County family to continue to wear a mask, observe social distance, and do everything you can to keep from catching or spreading the COVID-19 virus. Yes, the vaccines are here. And, the supply of vaccines is increasing. However, many people are still unprotected. People are still getting sick. People are still dying. These are friends, neighbors, and families. Please do your part to protect them, and yourself. Wear a mask. Keep your distance.*

*And now, I have some updates on our COVID vaccination program. As you may know, the Governor has opened vaccine eligibility to all persons age 16 and older, beginning on Monday, April 19. If you are already eligible, I encourage you to keep checking with the Union County Vaccine Center to make an*

*appointment online. You can find the link on the County website, at [ucnj.org](http://ucnj.org). If you don't have Internet access, you can reach the Vaccine Center by phone at 908-613-7829. Appointments book up quickly, so please check in as often as you can.*

*We are also increasing outreach to under-vaccinated communities. This week, in a joint effort with FEMA, we are focusing on residents of Elizabeth, Hillside, Linden, Roselle and Union as well as Plainfield. In addition, our Mobile Vaccine Unit is working to provide vaccines for seniors and other vulnerable members of our community, including homeless persons. And, we are supporting the statewide effort to ensure that our school population is fully vaccinated. On Tuesday the mobile unit conducted a vaccination drive for hundreds of educators and school staff in Union County.*

*We also continue to hold emergency food distribution events each month for thousands of households impacted by the pandemic. We have three events coming up in Elizabeth, Scotch Plains, and Plainfield. For details, visit the County website or follow us on social media.*

*Turning now to more routine matters, Union County's recreation programs are continuing with COVID safety guidelines. Please check our website to for details on a free drive-in concert featuring the Grateful Dead tribute band Splintered Sunlight; outdoor nature programs at the Trailside Center; and the Union County Falcon Cam, which provides a live stream of the peregrine falcon nest on the roof of the County Courthouse. There are four eggs in the nest, and we are all looking forward to seeing them hatch.*

*This month we are also supporting three national campaigns of great importance to the community, and to the Commissioner Board. April has been designated as Autism Acceptance Month, Sexual Assault Awareness Month, and Alcohol Awareness Month. You can find more information on all three campaigns on the County website, on our social media, and in displays in the lobby of the Administration Building. We encourage everyone to help support the Alcohol Awareness campaign by wearing purple on April 16. And, please show your support for the Sexual Assault campaign by wearing denim on April 28.*

*As Earth Day approaches I would also like to remind everyone that our recycling schedule is in full swing. For quick links to recycling events hosted by Union County, and many other environmental activities and programs, you can visit the "Green Connection" page on the County website, at [ucnj.org/green-connection](http://ucnj.org/green-connection).*

*Lastly, I would like to draw your attention to the gun safety movement. This Commissioner Board has worked for years with Moms Demand Action and other local, grassroots advocates, to press for new legislation, and new programs, that prevent gun violence and protects those at risk of harm. And today, President Biden announced six new executive actions that will bring us closer to those goals. These actions mark a significant, long-awaited step toward a common*

*sense approach to gun safety. And so, on behalf of the Board, I would like to thank our local Moms Demand volunteers, who have worked so hard, for so many years, to push for action. Your commitment of time, and energy, has truly achieved something remarkable.*

*With that, let us turn to the business of tonight's meeting.*

## **APPROVAL OF COMMUNICATIONS**

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### Note and File

Chairman Mirabella advised that the Communications would be approved later during the Regular Meeting.

Commissioner Angela R. Garretson joined the meeting.

### **OFFICE OF THE UNION COUNTY PROSECUTOR**

Lyndsay V. Ruotolo, Acting Prosecutor

First Assistant Prosecutor Doreen Yanik represented the Office.

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There were no questions or comments by the Board.

1. Authorizing the County Manager, through the Union County Prosecutor's Office, to purchase software, equipment, and related training from Cellebrite Inc., Parsippany, New Jersey, for the period of January 1, 2021 through December 31, 2021 in an amount not to exceed \$10,000.00. **(Chairman Alexander Mirabella)**
2. Authorizing the County Manager, through the Office of the Union County Prosecutor, to apply for and accept funding for the purpose described in the application from the State of New Jersey, Department of Law and Public Safety, for Federal Fiscal Year FFY 2018 Addressing the Training Needs of Juvenile Prosecutors Grant Program in the amount of \$6,656.00 in federal funds for the period of January 1, 2020 through August 31, 2021. **(Chairman Alexander Mirabella)**
3. Amending Resolution number 2020-781 to Authorize the County Manager, through the Office of the Union County Prosecutor, to apply for and accept funding for the purpose described in the application from the State of New Jersey, Office of the Attorney General, Department of Law and Public Safety for FFY2018 Stop Violence Against Woman Grant Program in the amount of \$36,534.00 in federal funds with a required match of not to exceed \$12,178.00 for a total project cost of not to exceed \$48,712.00 for the period of July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021. (Subaward number VAWA 50-18.) **(Chairman Alexander Mirabella)**
4. Amending Resolution Number 2020-782 to Authorize the County Manager, through the Office of the Union County Prosecutor, to apply for and accept funding for the purpose described in the application from the State of New Jersey, Office of the Attorney General, Department of Law and Public Safety for

FFY2018 Stop Violence Against Woman Grant Program in the amount of \$40,540.00 in federal funds with a required match not to exceed \$13,513.00 for a total project cost of not to exceed \$54,053.00 for the period of July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021. (Subaward number VAWA 50-19.) **(Chairman Alexander Mirabella)**

5. Amending Resolution number 2020-902, a contract with Kristen Balsamo-Kleinbach, to serve as a LIMS support analyst at the Union County Prosecutor's Forensic Laboratory for the period of January 1, 2021 through December 31, 2021, this amendment is at no additional cost to the County. **(Chairman Alexander Mirabella)**

#### **OFFICE OF THE UNION COUNTY SHERIFF**

Peter Corvelli, Sheriff

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There were no questions or comments by the Board.

1. Authorizing the County Manager to make a final payment to Westfield Veterinary Group for veterinary services and food for the Union County Sheriff's Office K-9 Unit for the year 2020 in the amount not to exceed \$6,882.31. **(Commissioner Sergio Granados)**
2. Authorizing the County Manager to enter into an agreement to authorize approval for participation in the Defense Logistic Agency, Law Enforcement Support Office (LESO), 1033 Program to enable Union County Sheriff's Office to request and acquire excess Department of Defense Equipment from January 1, 2021 through December 31, 2021. **(Commissioner Sergio Granados)**

#### **DEPARTMENT OF ENGINEERING, PUBLIC WORKS & FACILITIES MANAGEMENT**

Joseph Graziano, Director

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Division of Engineering Director Thomas O. Mineo represented the Department.

There were no questions or comments by the Board.

1. Authorizing the County Manager to award the proposed contract obtained through advertised public bidding in accordance with the Local Public Contracts Law N.J.S.A. 40A:11-1 et seq., to Railroad Construction Company, Inc. of Paterson, New Jersey for the Replacement of Gordon Street Bridge over "Out of Service" Conrail Structure 2050150, Boroughs of Roselle and Roselle Park, County of Union, New Jersey for an amount not to exceed \$7,383,437.87, subject to the approval of the New Jersey Department of Transportation (BA# 1-2021; Union County Engineering Project # 2011-051). **(Commissioner Bette Jane Kowalski)**
2. Authorizing the County Manager to utilize the County's only option to extend the open-ended contract awarded to Waste Management of New Jersey, Inc., Ewing, NJ pursuant to Resolution 2019-399 and originally obtained through advertised public bidding (B.A. # 15-2019), for the purpose of providing Construction Debris Disposal services for twenty-four (24) consecutive months from May 11,

2021 through May 10, 2023 in an amount not exceed \$80,000.00. **(Commissioner Bette Jane Kowalski)**

3. Authorizing the County Manager to enter into an agreement with Advanced Lighting & Sound, Inc., Elmwood Park, NJ for the purchase and installation of multiple Audio Systems for various Courtrooms in the County of Union, in the amount not to exceed \$ 44,000.00. **(Commissioner Bette Jane Kowalski)**
4. Resolution authorizing aerial dispensing operation county-wide by the Union County Bureau of Mosquito Control. **(Commissioner Bette Jane Kowalski)**
5. Resolution granting permission to the Township of Springfield to hang a banner across Mountain Avenue at North Trivett Avenue from April 1, 2021 through April 26, 2021 for the Rotary Club Food Truck Event to be held at Jonathan Dayton High School on Sunday, April 25, 2021. **(Commissioner Bette Jane Kowalski)**

#### **DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES**

Debbie-Ann Anderson, Director

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1. Authorizing the County Manager to award a contract to Bob Finkelstein & Associates Inc. ta BFA Food Service Equipment & Supplies of Warren NJ, to provide a pressure steamer to the Union County Division on Aging Kitchen for the Meals on Wheels program, in an amount not to exceed \$28,440.28. **(Commissioner Sergio Granados)**

Commissioner Palmieri-Mouded asked about the quantity of meals distributed through the Meals on Wheels Program and whether the program had seen an increase in demand due to COVID-19.

Director Anderson advised that approximately 1,319 meals had been provided through the initiative. She added that the program had seen an increase from previous years, noting between 750-800 residents served under normal conditions. She noted that the Meals on Wheels program was a separate service from a state-program that provides meals to homebound residents.

2. Amending Resolution 2020-583 to extend the contract to Geographic Solutions, Palm Harbor, FL for continuation of Workforce Information Management Data Exchange System, for a period of five (5) months commencing January 1, 2021 to May 31, 2021 in an amount not to exceed \$24,625.00. **(Commissioner Sergio Granados)**
3. Amending Resolution Number 2020-647, to increase funds in the American Job Center 2020 Youth Comprehensive Career Services spending plan in the amount of \$100,000.00 to be awarded to the United Way of Greater Union County, for a new total spending plan amount not to exceed \$225,000.00 for in-school youth program services. **(Commissioner Sergio Granados)**

Commissioner Granados asked Director Anderson to elaborate on this great initiative for in-school youth.

Director Anderson advised that this program would offer intensive and invaluable career preparation for approximately 40-50 in-school youths through partnerships between United Way of Greater Union County and the cities of Elizabeth and Plainfield and their respective Board of Educations. She noted that in addition to work training and certification, there would also be job-placement opportunities.

Vice Chair Williams asked if the 40-50 youths mentioned were per school district.

Director Anderson advised that the number represented a total relative to the overall program.

#### **DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION**

Ron Zuber, Director

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1. Authorizing County Manager to execute an Amended Access Agreement Allowing T & F Industry to Enter Zimmerman Section of Elizabeth River Park, to install a New and/or Use an Old Existing Well for NJ DEP Required Testing. **(Commissioner Andrea Staten)**

Chairman Mirabella asked Director Zuber to elaborate on this item.

Director Zuber advised that this item was relative to the monitoring of contaminated ground water at the Zimmerman section of Elizabeth River Park, emerging from a nearby industrial lot. He noted that subsequent to a Resolution passed in 2018 to monitor the current well on-site, the DEP requested access to conduct additional monitoring via the existing well as well as permission to install a new well if necessary.

#### **DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY**

Andrew Moran, Director

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1. Authorizing the County Manager to enter into a contract with Michael A. Terpak, Sparta, New Jersey, to provide High Rise Command Training to 100 Fire Officers from the Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) Region, through the 2020 UASI Grant, in an amount not to exceed \$20,000.00. **(Commissioner Sergio Granados)**

Commissioner Garretson asked Director Moran to elaborate on this item.

Director Moran advised that this item related to high rise command and control training funded through the 2020 UASI Region grant, noting this training was the first of its kind being offered through the Urban Area Security Initiative. He added that he was unsure about how many Union County fire officers would be participating and how the class would be executed in light of COVID-19 restrictions. He added that the 100 fire officers would likely be trained in smaller groups of 25 and or through virtually formatted classes which would allow for greater fire officer participation per class.

2. Authorizing the County Manager to enter into a contract with Training Specialties Inc, Exton, PA to provide a fire suppression course to approximately 20 firefighters from the Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) Region, through the

2019/2020 UASI Grant in an amount not to exceed \$85,000.00. **(Commissioner Sergio Granados)**

Commissioner Garretson asked Director Moran to elaborate on this item.

Director Moran advised that this item related to customary training in large-scale fire suppression with foam for firefighters from the Urban Area Security Initiative, noting the course one of the most realistic training grounds in the nation.

3. Authorizing the County Manager to enter into a Shared Service Agreement with the Union County Utilities Authority (UCUA) and the Union County Office of Health Management (UCOHM) to carry out the applicable provisions of the Union County Solid Waste Control Work Program component of the approved CEHA Work Program for a contract period effective from April 1, 2021 through March 31, 2031. **(Commissioner Sergio Granados)**

#### **OFFICE OF THE COUNTY COUNSEL**

Bruce H. Bergen, County Counsel

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There were no questions or comments by the Board.

1. Amending Resolution 2021-114 dated January 21, 2021 to increase the appropriation to Javerbaum Wurgaft Hicks Kahn Wikstrom & Sinins, P.C. in the matter entitled Reginald Curry v. UC, et als. in an amount not to exceed \$10,000.00 for a total contract not to exceed \$45,000.00. **(Chairman Alexander Mirabella)**
2. Resolution appointing Hatfield Schwartz, LLC as special counsel to represent the County of Union and the Union County Prosecutor's Office in the matter entitled Justin Marranca v. UC, et als, in an amount not to exceed \$10,000.00. **(Chairman Alexander Mirabella)**

#### **OFFICE OF THE COUNTY MANAGER**

Edward Oatman, County Manager

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There were no questions or comments by the Board.

1. Amending Resolution Number 2020-632, authorizing funding to the Union County Improvement Authority for preliminary expenses in the planning, design and undertakings for the new Union County Government Complex, to provide additional funding in the amount not to exceed \$16,750,000.00. **(Chairman Alexander Mirabella)**
2. Amending Resolution Number 2021-61, a Shared Service Agreement by and between the County of Union and the Borough of Kenilworth for the sharing of a Certified Public Works Manager, to extend the agreement three (3) months from April 1, 2021 through June 30, 2021 in the amount of \$5500.00. (Revenue Generating) **(Chairman Alexander Mirabella)**

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**COMMISSIONER SPONSORED RESOLUTIONS**

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1. Resolution offering this Board's deepest sympathies to the family of Kyle Abercrombie, of Newark, during their time of sorrow. **(Commissioner Angela R. Garretson & The Entire Board)**

Commissioner Garretson spoke relative to Kylie Abercrombie and his tremendous contributions to the community.

2. Proclaiming the month of April 2021 as Sexual Assault Awareness Month (SAAM) throughout the County of Union. **(Commissioner Sergio Granados & The Entire Board)**
3. Proclaiming April 11-17, 2021 as National Public Safety Telecommunications Week throughout Union County, in honor of the men and women whose diligence and professionalism keep our citizens safe; further acknowledging five dispatchers for their outstanding service. **(Commissioner Sergio Granados & The Entire Board)**
4. Resolution offering this Board's appreciation to Albeiro Orozco, of Brisas Colombianas Bakery in Elizabeth, for his donation of 2,000 empanadas to Union County's front line workers responding to the COVID-19 pandemic in Union County on National Empanada Day, April 8, 2021. **(Commissioner Sergio Granados & The Entire Board)**
5. Proclaiming April 13, 2021 as Equal Pay Day throughout the County of Union. **(Commissioner Kimberly Palmieri-Mouded & The Entire Board)**
6. Re-appointing the following members to the Union County Senior Citizen Disabled Resident Transportation Advisory Board for a term commencing January 1, 2021 through December 31, 2023: Sonja Ash (Senior/Disabled); Ellen Steinberg (Senior); Robert Edwards (Senior); William Totten (Senior/Disabled); Tony Hall (Senior/Consumer); Theodore Freeman (Senior); Vera P. Roquemore (Senior) and Paula King (Senior/Disabled). **(Commissioner Andrea Staten)**
7. Resolution re-appointing Tiffany Wilson to serve a three (3) year term as a member of the Mental Health Advisory Board (Justice Involved Services Representative). **(Commissioner Andrea Staten)**
8. Resolution recognizing the month of April, 2021 as Alcohol Awareness Month (AAM) throughout the County of Union **(Commissioner Andrea Staten & The Entire Board)**
9. Resolution offering this Board's deepest sympathies to the family of Middlesex County Commissioner Ken Armwood during their time of sorrow. **(Vice Chair Rebecca Lynne Williams, Commissioner Angela R. Garretson, Commissioner Andrea Staten & The Entire Board)**



10. Appointing Terri Hudak to the Union County Improvement Authority for a five (5) year term commencing February 1, 2021 and ending on January 31, 2026.  
**(Chairman Alexander Mirabella)**

**ADJOURNMENT**

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

The meeting was adjourned at 5:21P.M.

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

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

**2021 MEETING SCHEDULE**

**AGENDA SETTING SESSION**

**REGULAR MEETINGS**

January 21, 2021

January 21, 2021

February 4, 2021  
February 18, 2021

February 4, 2021  
February 18, 2021

March 4, 2021  
March 25, 2021

March 4, 2021  
March 25, 2021

April 8, 2021  
April 22, 2021

April 8, 2021  
April 22, 2021

May 6, 2021  
May 20, 2021

May 6, 2021  
May 20, 2021

June 10, 2021  
June 24, 2021

June 10, 2021  
June 24, 2021

July 22, 2021

July 22, 2021

August 12, 2021

August 12, 2021

September 2, 2021  
September 23, 2021

September 2, 2021  
September 23, 2021

October 7, 2021  
October 21, 2021

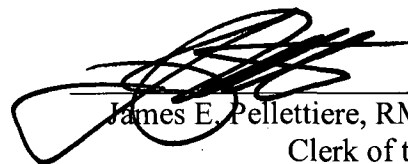
October 7, 2021  
October 21, 2021

November 4, 2021  
November 18, 2021

November 4, 2021  
November 18, 2021

December 2, 2021  
December 16, 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.