



UNION COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 2021
AGENDA SETTING MEETING MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Mirabella presided over the meeting and called the meeting to order at 5:03P.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 M. Leon, Commissioner Kimberly Palmieri-Mouded, and Commissioner Andrea Staten were present; with Vice Chair 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.

Chairman Mirabella addressed the public:

Good evening and welcome to another remote meeting of the Commissioner Board. As always, we have a lot of ground to cover.

Let's start by congratulating the candidates who won their campaigns on Tuesday. That includes our colleague on the Board, Commissioner Palmieri-Mouded, who will be serving her second term. We are also very proud to welcome Rahway Councilman James Baker to the Board for the first time.

Turning now to other matters, we continue to provide COVID-19 vaccines to all Union County residents age 12 and up, free of charge. Vaccination for children ages 5 to 11 has just received approval, and we will be rolling out that program shortly as well. I can't stress enough how important it is to get vaccinated.

The virus is still active, it is still deadly, and it is still on the attack. If you need a free COVID vaccine, if you need a free test, and if you need emergency food supplies and other resources, please get in touch. You can call us, email us, follow us on social media, or visit us online at ucnj.org for the latest updates.

I also want to thank everyone who participated last month's gun buyback program. Union County residents turned in more than 500 guns during a single day, on October 23. Many of these guns were in working condition and were kept around the house, which raises the possibility of theft or misuse. Thank you again, for taking this important step to reduce the risk of gun violence in our community.

I also have some good news to report about our efforts to preserve open space in Union County. We are moving ahead with the acquisition of a vacant property in Berkeley Heights, and we plan to restore it as part of the Passaic River Parkway.

I would like to thank Berkeley Heights Mayor Angie Devanney and County Manager Ed Oatman for their work in creating this rare opportunity to add more land to our public parks.

Also, I want to thank Human Services Director Debbie-Ann Anderson for her work in launching our "Fresh Start" initiative. This is a new outreach service that combines in-person guidance with a mobile laundry, shower, and restroom facility. It is the first county-based service of its kind in New Jersey. The Fresh Start program will bring essential services and additional resources to our unsheltered residents, including those left homeless due to a natural disaster or other emergency.

We also continue to support the efforts of FEMA to provide federal emergency disaster relief to those impacted by Tropical Storm Ida. FEMA has extended the deadline to apply for individual relief to December 6, so if you believe you are eligible, please visit [DisasterAssistance.gov](https://www.disasterassistance.gov) to get the process started. And, we are working with FEMA to help our residents apply for disaster-related food benefits under the D-SNAP program. We'll be announcing those details as soon as they are confirmed.

On a different note, I'm happy to report that our Sensory Friendly Theatre series continues at the Performing Arts Center in Rahway on Sunday, December 5 at 1:00 p.m. with the classic ballet "The Nutcracker." Sensory Friendly Theatre is a wonderful resource for parents with special needs children. It provides a welcoming, judgement-free space to enjoy enriching activities in a community setting. For details visit the Performing Arts Center online at ucpac.org.

Prior to going into the business portion of this meeting, I am proud to announce that we have a very special presentation this evening. And, I would like to thank both Anjali Mehrotra and Vrutti Patel for agreeing to help this Board celebrate Diwali for the very first time!

PRESENTATIONS BY THE BOARD

A presentation was made by Anjali Mehrotra, of Mountainside, Vrutti Patel of Roselle Park joined by the Board of County Commissioners in celebration of Diwali.

Anjali Mehrotra thanked the Board, in particular Chairman Mirabella and Commissioner Palmieri-Mouded, for allowing them to make this presentation in celebration of Diwali. She provided background information related to the celebration, advising that Diwali was the most important holiday in the Indian tradition and was celebrated by lighting diyas to symbolize the triumph of good over evil.

Vrutti Patel added that Diwali had become a national festival enjoyed by even non-Hindu communities. She noted that some communities observed the holiday between 2-5 days at which time homes were decorated with lights and lamps and neighbors would exchange gifts and sweets and light fireworks.

Anjali Mehrotra invited the Commissioners to light their respective diyas in honors of good's victory over evil and wished everyone a Happy Diwali. Chairman Mirabella thanked Anjali Mehrotra and Vrutti Patel for their wonder presentation, noting the importance of the holiday and the Board's desire to continue this celebration annually.

APPROVAL OF COMMUNICATIONS

Note and File

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

OFFICE OF THE UNION COUNTY PROSECUTOR

William Daniel, Prosecutor

1. Authorizing the County Manager through the Union County Prosecutor's Office to enter into Agreements with Per Diem Advocates to serve as independent contractors as part of the Union County Per Diem Advocates Program for the period of October 1, 2021 through September 30, 2022 in the amount not to exceed \$120,000.00. **(Chairman Alexander Mirabella)**
2. Authorizing the County Manager through the Union County Prosecutor's Office to enter into a Agreements with Per Diem Advocates to serve as independent contractors as part of the Union County Per Diem Advocates Program for the period of October 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022 in the amount not to exceed \$13,500.00. **(Chairman Alexander Mirabella)**

Commissioner Granados asked Prosecutor Daniel to elaborate on Item Nos. 1 & 2.

Prosecutor Daniel advised that both these items related to two federal grants. He added that these items would cover the costs associated with per diem victim advocates, noting that the Department wanted to expand upon these services. He advised that the first grant would primarily cover services for victims of sexual assault, strangulation, and similar crimes. He added that the second grant focused primarily on services related to domestic violence victim witness advocates, noting that the grant would allow the department to increase training and expand resources in this area.

3. Authorizing the County Manager to enter into a license agreement allowing Hudson County's Public Safety Training Academy to use the Emergency Vehicle Operating Course Track at the Stamler Police Academy. **(Chairman Alexander Mirabella)**
4. Authorizing the County Manager, through the Union County Prosecutor's Office, to enter into a contract with O'Brien & Kolano LLC, Glen Gardner, NJ to provide Crisis Intervention Team Training to law enforcement and mental health personnel in an amount not to exceed \$15,200.00. **(Chairman Alexander Mirabella)**
5. Authorizing the County Manager, through the Union County Prosecutor's Office, to enter into an agreement with Prevention Links, Roselle, NJ for the Operation

Helping Hand program for the period of September 1, 2021 through August 31, 2022 in the amount of not to exceed \$57,475.00. **(Chairman Alexander Mirabella)**

Chairman Mirabella advised that he appreciated this item extending the County's partnership with Prevention Links and the wonderful Operation Helping Hand program.

6. Authorizing the County Manager, through the Office of the Union County Prosecutor, to apply for and accept funding from the State of New Jersey, Office of the Attorney General, Department of Law and Public Safety for FFY 2021 Overdose Data to Action - Operation Helping Hand Grant Program for the purpose described in the application in the amount of \$52,631.00 for the period of September 1, 2021 through August 31, 2022 (Subaward Number FYOHH-18-2021). **(Chairman Alexander Mirabella)**

OFFICE OF THE UNION COUNTY SHERIFF

Peter Corvelli, Sheriff

There were no questions or comments by the Board.

1. Authorizing the County Manager to accept and expend the SFY21 Body-Worn Camera Grant Program for the Union County Sheriff's office to purchase body worn cameras and body worn camera related equipment in an amount not to exceed \$462,626.00 for the grant period of January 1, 2021 to December 31, 2025 (Agency award number 21-BWC-444). **(Commissioner Sergio Granados)**

DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Amy Crisp Wagner, Deputy County Manager/Director

1. Authorizing the County of Union to fund the Raritan Valley Rail Coalition, a nonpartisan, nonprofit 501(c)3 organization in an amount not to exceed \$4,000.00, to advocate support for station and service improvements and regional projects for the year 2021. **(Chairman Alexander Mirabella)**
2. Authorizing the County Manager to utilize the County's option to extend the contract awarded to Winning Strategies Washington, LLC and Hoboken Strategy's Group Inc., for a twenty-four (24) month period commencing January 1, 2022 through December 31, 2023 in an amount not to exceed \$300,000.00 **(Chairman Alexander Mirabella)**
3. Amending resolution 2019-809, a resolution approving the 2018-2019 (Year 44) Consolidated Action Plan, to increase CDBG funding to the Freeholder Initiative Project (D-12-56-818-505-919) in the amount of \$89,524.00 from \$150,000.00 to \$239,524.00 utilizing contingency funds and to award a contract to CAPC Supportive Needs Housing Inc., for extended contract period through August 31, 2022, in an amount not to exceed \$239,524.00. **(Chairman Alexander Mirabella)**
4. Authorizing the County Manager to enter into a contract with Benevate, Inc. D/B/A Neighborly Software, Atlanta, GA, for software usage for the Community Development Block Grant program for a contract period of November 15, 2021 through November 1, 2022, in an amount not to exceed \$31,200.00. **(Chairman Alexander Mirabella)**

DEPARTMENT OF ENGINEERING, PUBLIC WORKS & FACILITIES MANAGEMENTJoseph Graziano, Director

There were no questions or comments by the Board.

1. Amending resolution 2016-949, a contract to Maser Consulting PA, Red Bank, New Jersey to provide additional services for Three Culverts in Plainfield, Scotch Plains, and Springfield, NJ for an additional amount of \$65,700.00 for a new contract amount not to exceed \$508,680.00 (Union County Engineering Project Number 2010-006C). **(Commissioner Bette Jane Kowalski)**
2. Resolution authorizing the County Manager to award the proposed contracts obtained through advertised public bidding (BA# 46-2021) in accordance with the Local Public Contracts Law, NJSA 40A:11-1 et seq: Department of Engineering, Public Works & Facilities Management - Supplying of Snow Plow & Salt Spreader Equipment parts and accessories - Dejana Truck & Utility Company 2502 Route 130 N., Cinnaminson, NJ - Lots 2 \$22,500 - Lot 5 \$22,000; Trius Inc., 5049 Industrial Road, Farmingdale, NJ - Lot 6 \$23,750 for a period of 24 consecutive months in the total amount not to exceed \$68,250. **(Commissioner Bette Jane Kowalski)**

DEPARTMENT OF FINANCEBibi Taylor, Director

There were no questions or comments by the Board.

1. Resolution Approving Transfer of Current Fund Appropriations. **(Commissioner Christopher Hudak)**
2. Resolution modifying the 2021 Union County adopted budget in the amount of \$347,080.00 as a result of notification received from the State of New Jersey, Department of State for a program entitled: UCBOE Early Voting Reimbursement Phase II Grant. **(Commissioner Christopher Hudak)**
3. Resolution modifying the 2021 Union County adopted budget in the amount of \$477,900.00 as a result of notification received from the State of New Jersey, Department of Environmental Protection for a program entitled: Recycling Enhancement Act Grant. **(Commissioner Christopher Hudak)**
4. Canceling unexpended grant account balances in the listed Grant Accounts. **(Commissioner Christopher Hudak)**
5. Canceling Capital Balances to Capital Surplus and Deferred Charges Unfunded. **(Commissioner Christopher Hudak)**
6. Resolution modifying the 2021 Union County adopted budget in the amount of \$197,000.00 as a result of notification received from the State of New Jersey, Department of State for a program entitled: UCBOE-Election Day Poll Worker Pay Incentive Grant. **(Commissioner Christopher Hudak)**
7. Resolution modifying the 2021 Union County adopted budget in the amount of \$278,045.76 as a result of notification received from the State of New Jersey,

Department of State for a program entitled: UCBOE Primary Election Day Poll Worker Pay Incentive. **(Commissioner Christopher Hudak)**

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

Debbie-Ann Anderson, Director

There were no questions or comments by the Board.

1. Authorizing the County Manager to establish funds for all burial costs for the indigent, unidentified or unclaimed deceased persons of Union County at a burial rate not to exceed \$1,550.00 in a total amount not to exceed \$100,000.00 for the period of January 1, 2022 through December 31, 2022. **(Commissioner Sergio Granados)**
2. Authorizing the County Manager to enter into a Lease Agreement between the County of Union and SHARMA REALTY INVESTMENTS, LLC, for the rental of 30 parking spaces at \$75.00 per parking spot located at 432 Westminster Avenue, Elizabeth, N.J commencing on January 1, 2022 through December 31, 2022 in an amount of not to exceed \$2,250.00 per month for a total annual amount not to exceed \$27,000.00. **(Commissioner Sergio Granados)**
3. Amending Resolution No. 2021-391, a contract with MPC Corporation, Garden City, NY for the continued provision of Paratransit Services, to reflect an additional adjustment to the appropriation accounts for the continued provision of Paratransit Services. **(Commissioner Lourdes M. Leon)**
4. Authorizing the County Manager to award a contract to The Mount Olive Baptist Church, Plainfield, NJ, to provide warming center services for homeless individuals on Union County designated Code Blue Nights for the period of November 1, 2021 to December 31, 2021, in an amount not to exceed \$17,000. **(Commissioner Sergio Granados)**
5. Amending Resolution Number 2021-651 a 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 November 1, 2021 through December 31, 2021, to increase funding in an amount not to exceed \$200,000, for a new total amount not to exceed \$1,985,000.00. **(Commissioner Sergio Granados)**
6. Amending Resolution Number 2021-652 with Frank M. Gargiulo & Son, Inc. dba Gargiulo Produce, Hillside, NJ, for the provision of fresh produce for the County's COVID-19 Emergency Food Distribution events for the period of November 1, 2021 through December 31, 2021, to increase funding in an amount not to exceed \$280,000.00, for a new total amount not to exceed \$1,310,000.00. **(Commissioner Sergio Granados)**
7. Request for a waiver of the County's residency requirement for Charles Richardson, an employee with the Department of Human Services, Director, American Jobs Center. **(Vice Chair Rebecca Lynne Williams)**

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATIONRon Zuber, Director

1. Authorizing County Manager to Enter into an Access Agreement allowing Monmouth University to conduct an Archeological Survey in Green Brook Park. **(Commissioner Andrea Staten)**

Chairman Mirabella asked if this was the first time the Department was conducting this type of study at the cited location.

Director Zuber advised that the idea of a study of this area was brought to the County by students and professors from Monmouth University through the Plainfield Historical Society. He noted that the location was thought to serve as a revolutionary war encampment during the times of George Washington. He added that the study would include radar and sonar testing as well as the use of metal detectors to locate any items that remained on site. He advised that any items found on-site would be catalogued and returned to the County.

2. Authorizing the County Manager to approve Change Order No. 1 to BA# 9-2020 awarded by Resolution Number 2020-280, to Space Farms, Inc., Wantage, NJ, increasing the contract amount by not to exceed \$16,000.00 for a total contract amount not to exceed \$60,825.00 for the period of April 1, 2020 through April 30, 2022. **(Commissioner Andrea Staten)**
3. Authorizing the County Manager to apply for and execute a grant from the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs to obtain permits needed based on sedimentation testing of three lakes in the Clark Reservoir in the amount of \$250,000.00. **(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 2021-528 to increase the appropriation to Renaud & DeAppolonio, LLC, Cranford, NJ in the matter entitled Monique Hall v. UC, et als. in an amount not to exceed \$15,000.00 for a total contract amount not to exceed \$60,000.00. **(Chairman Alexander Mirabella)**

OFFICE OF THE COUNTY MANAGEREdward Oatman, County Manager

There were no questions or comments by the Board.

1. Authorizing the County Manager to sign any and all documents necessary to enter into a Memorandum or Agreement with Teamsters Local 469-Primary Supervisors effective January 1, 2021 through December 31, 2023. **(Chairman Alexander Mirabella)**

2. Authorizing the County Manager to sign any and all documents necessary to enter into a Memorandum of Agreement with PBA LOCAL 199 effective January 1, 2018 through December 31, 2020. **(Chairman Alexander Mirabella)**
3. Authorizing the County Manager to adjust and/or change the Internal Position Control Schedules. **(Commissioner Christopher Hudak)**

COMMISSIONER SPONSORED RESOLUTIONS

1. Authorizing the County Manager to enter into a contract with the Union County Performing Arts Center, Rahway, NJ, to provide services necessary for the execution of the 2021-2022 season of the Sensory Friendly Theater program, which will include up to six (6) performances designed and adapted for children with autism and related disabilities for the period of December 16, 2021 through December 15, 2022, in an amount not to exceed \$90,000.00. **(Chairman Alexander Mirabella & The Entire Board)**
2. Resolution recognizing November as "National American Indian Heritage Month" throughout Union County. **(Commissioner Bette Jane Kowalski & The Entire Board)**
3. Resolution recognizing each of the following community leaders on their honor as being platinum sponsors of the Latino Chamber of Commerce Sailing for Scholarships Fundraising Event: Michael Santos of MLB Lending; Edwin Diaz of Helios Property Management; Rafael Rivera of Helios Property Management; Anthony Rivera of Keller Williams Realty; Alex Cabezas of Horizon Blue Cross Blue Shield; Poder Latino and Karla Navarrete of Poder Latino USA organization. **(Commissioner Sergio Granados & The Entire Board)**
4. Resolution recognizing the festival of lights to all who are celebrating Diwali, and wishing all new beginnings and the triumph light over darkness; and further offering this Board's appreciation to Anjali Mehrotra, of Mountainside, for her participation in the Board of County Commissioners' first celebration of Diwali at the November 4, 2021 Board of Commissioners Meeting. **(Chairman Alexander Mirabella & The Entire Board)**

ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting was adjourned at 5:28 P.M

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

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

2021 MEETING SCHEDULE

AGENDA SETTING SESSION

REGULAR MEETINGS

January 21, 2021

January 21, 2021

February 4, 2021
February 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.

In adherence to the Department of Community Affairs, Division of Local Government Services (DLGS) guidelines, the County Commissioners' meetings will be open to the public by electronic means, and as such, will be conducted through a teleconference via ZOOM Webinar. All members of the public may view the meeting by livestream at ucnj.org/commissioners. Any member of the public wishing to participate in the teleconference meeting, may do so by downloading ZOOM to their individual electronic device and must email the Clerk of the Board at jpellettiere@ucnj.org <<mailto:jpellettiere@ucnj.org>> to receive the meeting-specific link and password to gain access to the teleconference. All requests **must** be submitted and received by the Clerk of the Board **no later than noon of the corresponding meeting date.**

Members of the public who prefer not to, or do not have the means to, participate in the teleconference, may continue to participate in the County Commissioners meetings by emailing comments relative to resolutions being offered for adoption and/or on any governmental issue that a member of the public feels may be of concern to the residents of the county to the Clerk of the Board at jpellettiere@ucnj.org <<mailto:jpellettiere@ucnj.org>>. All relevant comments received will be read into the record during each Regular Meeting's Public Comment Portion, prior to the Board's consideration of resolutions for adoption, and will be addressed accordingly by the Board. All emails **must** be submitted and received by the Clerk of the Board **no later than noon of the corresponding Regular Meeting date** and, as is always the case, **must** include the public member's **full name** and **town of residence** and **resolution number** to which comments are being referred for the record. Agendas will be posted for the public's viewing on the County's official website at: www.ucnj.org/commissioners <<http://www.ucnj.org/commissioners>>.

Persons requiring a sign language interpreter should contact the Office of the Clerk of the Board at 908-527-4140.