



UNION COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2021
AGENDA SETTING MEETING MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

Vice Chair Williams presided over the meeting and called the meeting to order at 5:04 P.M.

ROLL CALL

Roll call showed Chairman Alexander Mirabella, Vice Chair Rebecca Williams, Commissioner Angela R. Garretson, Commissioner Sergio Granados, Commissioner Christopher Hudak, Commissioner Bette Jane Kowalski, Commissioner Lourdes M. Leon, and Commissioner Kimberly Palmieri-Mouded were present; with Commissioner Andrea Staten 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, and I would like to start by reminding residents impacted by Hurricane Ida that federal disaster relief is available. Hundreds of residents have visited two pop-up events that we organized to provide in-person assistance, and now FEMA has set up an assistance center in Elizabeth where you can get help. More details are available on the County website, ucnj.org/ida.

Union County's COVID-19 response efforts are also continuing. If you are already vaccinated, please watch the County website or follow us on social media for updates on getting a booster shot. We are currently offering free booster shots to immunocompromised residents. We will expand that program as soon as federal guidance is available. If you are not vaccinated yet, please come to one of our free vaccine clinics, as soon as you can. You can find locations and schedules on the County website at ucnj.org/vax.

We also continue to assist those impacted financially by the pandemic. Our next distribution event for emergency food supplies will take place this Saturday, September 25, at the Warinanco Sports Center in Roselle. And, we are still accepting applications for emergency rental assistance. You can get all the details on both programs from the County website.

I also want to remind Union County residents that it is still important to protect yourself against the seasonal flu. We are running a series of free flu shot clinics every week from now until November 18, and you can visit ucnj.org/flu to see the schedule and make an appointment.

Turning now upcoming events, we are continuing our series of Hispanic Heritage Month activities, with a family friendly double feature drive-in movie at Plainfield High School, on October 1.

Also, please keep an eye on the County website for details about the next hire-on-the-spot Job Fair, which will be on October 5 at The Mills at Jersey Gardens Mall.

And finally, I want to give everyone advance notice on the upcoming gun amnesty buyback event, which will be held on Saturday, October 23. If you have an unwanted gun in your possession, this buyback is your opportunity to turn it in, anonymously, with no questions asked, and receive up to \$250. We hold these events to help get unwanted guns off the streets and out of our neighborhoods, and we encourage everyone to pitch in and make it a success.

With that, let's 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.

OFFICE OF THE UNION COUNTY PROSECUTOR

William Daniel, Prosecutor

First Assistant Prosecutor James O. Tansey represented the Office.

Chairman Mirabella advised that the Board would continue through the agenda and return to the Office of the Prosecutor once the technical difficulties were resolved.

There were no questions or comments by the Board.

1. Amending Resolution Number 2021-35, adopted January 3, 2021, authorizing the use of cooperative contracts, to increase the annual budgetary allocation for Insight Public Sector, for the period of January 1, 2021 through December 31, 2021, by an amount not to exceed \$8,413.39 for a new total amount not to exceed a total of \$58,413.39. **(Chairman Alexander Mirabella)**
2. Amending Resolution Number 2020-533, an Affiliation Agreement with Trinitas Regional Medical Center, Child and Adolescent Outpatient Unit, Department of Psychiatry and The Friends of the Child Advocacy Center of Union County for licensed clinician / therapist services, to reflect Affiliation Agreement period of July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2022. (All other aspects of the contract will remain the same). **(Chairman Alexander Mirabella)**
3. Amending Resolution Number 2021-503, an agreement with Thermo Scientific Portable Analytical Instruments Inc. (Lifetech), Carlsbad, CA to purchase proprietary reagent supplies and service agreements for instrument maintenance, to reflect a change/addition of account number only. (All other aspects of the agreement remain the same). **(Chairman Alexander Mirabella)**

OFFICE OF THE UNION COUNTY SHERIFF

Peter Corvelli, Sheriff

1. Authorizing the County Manager to enter into a contract with the County of Hudson for the provision of Comprehensive Inmate Substance Abuse Treatment and Reentry Services Program for an initial period October 1, 2021 Through June 30, 2022 in the amount not to exceed \$2,625,000.00. **(Chairman Alexander Mirabella)**

Chairman Mirabella asked Sheriff Corvelli to elaborate on this item.

Sheriff Corvelli advised that starting October 1st the Office had opted to transfer rehabilitation inmates from Delaney Hall to Hudson County where inmates would have access to various resources including Medicaid, schooling, and job placement services. He added that the resources provided through Hudson would help these individuals better integrate themselves into society following their release.

Mirabella thanked Sheriff Corvelli for his efforts in securing better services and resources for inmates.

DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

Laura Scutari, Director

1. Authorizing the County Manager to award an open-ended contract to MTE Turf Equipment Solutions, Inc. (Municipal Turf Equipment), West Henrietta, NY for the purchase of Jacobsen lawn mower parts in an amount not to exceed \$26,500.00. **(Chairman Alexander Mirabella)**

Commissioner Hudak asked Director Scutari if this purchase pertained to general parts or special order items.

Director Scutari advised that this item would be used by the turf shop for the purchase of specific parts to make general repairs to heavy duty mowers.

Chairman Mirabella returned to First Assistant Prosecutor James O. Tansey to present the items on behalf of the Prosecutor's Office.

DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Amy Crisp Wagner, Deputy County Manager/Director

1. Authorizing the County Manager to award a contract to Resolute Guard, Sea Girt, NJ, to provide Cybersecurity and Risk Management services to the County of Union for a twelve-month (12) period in an amount not to exceed \$24,950.00. **(Chairman Alexander Mirabella)**
2. Resolution of the Union County Board of County Commissioners concurring with the Union County Workforce Development Board Resolution No. 2021-28 to award contracts to Union County College and also to Workforce Advantage to provide WorkFirst New Jersey services to clients enrolled in the Program Year 2021 (July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022) in the amount not to exceed \$476,737.00 to each vendor, for a total amount not to exceed \$953,474.00. **(Chairman Alexander Mirabella)**

Commissioner Garretson asked how many people have benefited from this item and how many more people could benefit with the additional dollars.

Deputy County Manager Wagner advised that due to the pandemic, work activity requirements for people receiving public assistance had been suspended. She added that she expected this requirement to be re-imposed early next year. She noted that due to these unprecedented circumstances, she was unable to gauge how many people had benefited from this item.

Commissioner Granados asked Deputy County Manager Wagner to elaborate on this program.

Deputy County Manager Wagner advised that under this program, individuals receiving public assistance were required to participate in job-related activities, including resume writing, job training, and GED prep among other activities. She reiterated that due to the COVID-19 pandemic, this requirement had been waved and participation was limited. On a side note, she advised that the American Job Center had started a pilot program which would equip these individuals with laptops so they could continue their work activity requirement. She added that the program had been so well received that the State of NJ was working on modeling and potentially implementing the program state-wide.

DEPARTMENT OF ENGINEERING, PUBLIC WORKS & FACILITIES MANAGEMENT

Joseph Graziano, Director

There were no questions or comments by the Board.

1. Authorizing the County Manager to enter into an Agreement between the County of Union and the City of Linden for the installation of Rectangular Rapid Flashing

- Beacon (RRFB) Pedestrian Crosswalk Systems at the intersections of South Wood Avenue (CR-617), and Pennsylvania Railroad Avenue, North Stiles Street (CR-615) and Amon Terrace and South Stiles Street (CR-615) and West Munsell Avenue in Linden, New Jersey. The Systems will be purchased, installed, operated and maintained by the City of Linden. **(Commissioner Bette Jane Kowalski)**
2. Amending Resolution Number 2021-559, a contract with CME Associates, Parlin, NJ to provide additional On-Call Environmental Engineering Services for an additional amount of \$30,000.00 for a new contract amount not to exceed \$85,000.00 (Union County Engineering Project Number 2020-014). **(Commissioner Bette Jane Kowalski)**
 3. Amending Resolution Number 2019-1104, a contract awarded through advertised public bidding (BA#56-2017) in accordance with the Local Public Contracts Law, N.J.S.A. 40A:11-1 et seq., to GPC, Inc., of Millburn, New Jersey, approving Change Order Number 4 for the Union County Courthouse Fire Code Upgrades, City of Elizabeth. This change order will increase the original contract amount by \$350,006.88 for a new contract amount not to exceed \$21,878,223.53 (Union County Engineering Project Number 2010-033C). **(Commissioner Bette Jane Kowalski)**
 4. Resolution granting permission to the Township of Berkeley Heights Volunteer Rescue Squad to hang banners over Springfield Avenue and Plainfield Avenue from October 1, 2021 through October 31, 2021 for their Membership Drive. **(Commissioner Bette Jane Kowalski)**
 5. Resolution granting permission to the City of Linden to close Wood Avenue between Elizabeth Avenue and Curtis Street on Saturday, October 9, 2021 from 7:00 am to 10:00 pm for the First Annual October to Never Forget event. **(Commissioner Bette Jane Kowalski)**

DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE

Bibi Taylor, Director

Chairman Mirabella asked Director Taylor to confirm that these items related to the receipt of grants.

Director Taylor confirmed this to be the case.

1. Resolution authorizing the County Manager to enter into a contract with Lerch, Vinci & Higgins LLP, Fair Lawn, NJ to provide Financial Advisory Services to the County of Union related to Cornerstone Behavior Health Hospital in an amount not to exceed \$35,000.00. **(Commissioner Christopher Hudak)**
2. Resolution modifying the 2021 Union County adopted budget in the amount of \$2,760.00 as a result of notification received from the State of New Jersey, Department of Health for a program entitled: Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program Grant. **(Commissioner Christopher Hudak)**

3. Resolution modifying the 2021 Union County adopted budget in the amount of \$86,427.00 as a result of notification received from the State of New Jersey, Department of Law and Public Safety for a program entitled: VOCA-Sexual Assault Response Team/Forensic Nurse Examiner (SANE). **(Commissioner Christopher Hudak)**
4. Resolution modifying the 2021 Union County adopted budget in the amount of \$147,126.00 as a result of notification received from the State of New Jersey, Department of State for a program entitled: UCBOE Drop Box Pickups Grant. **(Commissioner Christopher Hudak)**
5. Resolution modifying the 2021 Union County adopted budget in the amount of \$26,880.00 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)**
6. Resolution modifying the 2021 Union County adopted budget in the amount of \$11,458.96 as a result of notification received from the Rahway Board of Education, Rahway, New Jersey for a program entitled: UCBOE Rahway 2021 Special School Election Reimbursement. **(Commissioner Christopher Hudak)**

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

Debbie-Ann Anderson, Director

1. Authorizing the County Manager to apply for and accept and the Board to endorse and approve the 2022 Comprehensive County Youth Services Plan and Application Update, to include Award numbers listing each funding source as required by the State of New Jersey Juvenile Justice Commission and Attorney General's Office: The State Community Partnership Program Management Funds in the amount of \$55,550.00; State Community Partnership Program Service Funds in the amount of \$384,876.00; and Family Court Services in the amount of \$248,737.00. **(Commissioner Kimberly Palmieri-Mouded)**
2. Authorizing the County Manager to apply for and execute the FY2022 Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) contract in the amount of \$318,910.00 from the State of New Jersey, Department of Community Affairs (NJDC) for the grant period of October 1, 2021 through September 30, 2022 for the purpose of providing community programming for low income residents of Union County, and to recognize and accept that the Department may offer a lesser or greater amount and therefore, upon receipt of the grant agreement from NJDC, does further authorize the execution of any such agreement. **(Commissioner Sergio Granados)**
3. Authorizing the County Manager to award the proposed contract obtained through advertised public bidding (BA #41-2021) in accordance with Local Public Contracts Law N.J.S.A. 40A:11-1 et seq., to First Priority Emergency Vehicles, Manchester, NJ for the purchase of two Cares Act Vans for an amount not to exceed \$310,304.88. **(Commissioner Sergio Granados)**

Commissioner Palmieri-Mouded asked Director Anderson what these vehicles would be used for.

Director Anderson advised that these two customized vehicles funded with CARES Act funding would be used by the Department of Human Services, Division of Social Services to provide certain essential services on-the-go. She added that the vehicles would visit different communities throughout the County and assist residents with applying for SNAP and Medicaid benefits.

4. Authorizing the County Manager to enter into an agreement with NJ Department of Military and Veterans Affairs for the period of July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022 for the purpose of transporting veterans of Union County to veteran's medical facilities in the amount of not to exceed \$12,000.00. **(Commissioner Lourdes M. Leon)**

Commissioner Granados asked Director Anderson if this was a new program.

Director Anderson advised that this program had been done in the past and would provide transportation services to and from appointments to the VA hospital in East Orange for Veterans.

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

Andrew Moran, Director

Chairman Mirabella thanked Director Moran as well as County Manager Oatman and Deputy County Manager Wagner for organizing an earlier meeting with FEMA and the various municipalities throughout the County. He noted that Commissioner Hudak and Commissioner Kowalski had also participated in the discussion.

1. Authorizing the County Manager to enter into a Sub-grant Agreement with HMMH Hospitals Corporation, JFK Medical Center, Edison, NJ, to provide nurse case management of lead poisoned children through the County Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program from July 1, 2021 to September 30, 2021 in an amount of not to exceed \$22,373.00. **(Commissioner Sergio Granados)**
2. Authorizing the County Manager to enter into a contract with National Medical Services Inc. dba NMS Laboratories, Willow Grove, PA, for post-mortem toxicology lab services for basic and expanded testing services, for a contract term of October 1, 2021 through September 30, 2023, in an amount not to exceed \$150,000.00. **(Commissioner Sergio Granados)**
3. Authorizing the County Manager to enter into a contract with Spec Rescue International, Virginia Beach, Virginia, to provide specialized training to members of the Metro Urban Search and Rescue (MUSAR) Task Force from the Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) Region, through the 2019 and 2020 UASI grants, in an amount not to exceed \$158,665.00. **(Commissioner Sergio Granados)**

Commissioner Hudak asked Director Moran if the COVID-19 pandemic and the subsequent restrictions could jeopardize this funding.

Director Moran advised that this grant was on a 3-year cycle and that monies that could not be used last year due to the pandemic could be utilized within the remaining time period. He added that his Department was closely monitoring deadlines to ensure that monies were consumed accordingly.

Commissioner Sponsored Resolutions

1. Resolution appointing Adela S. Caceres (Domestic Violence) to the Union County Human Services Advisory Council (HSAC) for a term ending December 31, 2022. **(Commissioner Sergio Granados)**
2. Re-appointing the following members to the Workforce Development Advisory Board with a term ending June 30, 2023: Gwen Ryan, Richard Capac, Debbie Ann Anderson, Juanito Chialuisa; and re-appointing the following members with a term ending June 30, 2024: Krystal Canady, Salvador Garcia, Theresa Soto- Vega, Ed Faver, Stan Robinson, Jr., Glenn Nacion, Paul Belardo, and Edwin Gomez. Further appointing the following to serve as members to the Workforce Development Board for a term ending June 30, 2023: Morgan Thompson, Kelly Laudette, Hilary McCarron, and Daryl Palmieri. **(Commissioner Sergio Granados)**
3. Resolution honoring the life and legacy of Damarys Vazquez, an Elizabeth resident who inspired many young women within her community through her locally renowned Damarys Dance Studio in Elizabeth. **(Commissioner Lourdes M. Leon, Commissioner Sergio Granados & The Entire Board)**
4. Resolution recognizing September 2021 as National Suicide Prevention Awareness Month to remember those affected by suicide, to raise awareness, and to focus efforts on directing treatment to those who need it most. **(Commissioner Andrea Staten & The Entire Board)**
5. Resolution recognizing Ada Morell for her 10 years of service to Kean University as the University's Board of Trustees Chair. **(Chairman Alexander Mirabella & The Entire Board)**
6. Resolution congratulating Bernie Wagenblast, Dr. Nancy DiLiegro, Steven Edwards, Sister Percylee Hart and Commissioner Bette Jane Kowalski on being honored by the Boy Scouts of America, Patriots' Path Council at their 2021 Union County Lifetime Achievement Awards Dinner. **(Chairman Alexander Mirabella & The Entire Board)**
7. Resolution congratulating Anthony Russo who is being honored by the Italian Tribune on October 8, 2021 upon receiving the Lifetime Achievement Award. **(Chairman Alexander Mirabella & The Entire Board)**
8. Congratulating the 2020 Unity Award recipients upon being honored by the Union County Human Relations Commission. **(Chairman Alexander Mirabella & The Entire Board)**
9. Resolution recognizing Melanie Wilson, Summit Interfaith Council, Antonietta LaVecchia, Jesse Butler, Rick Proctor and John Detweiler on being honored by

the Boy Scouts of America, Patriots' Path Council at their 21st Annual Summit Good Scout Award Dinner. **(Chairman Alexander Mirabella & The Entire Board)**

ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting was adjourned at 5:24 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. 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.

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.