



UNION COUNTY BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 2020
AGENDA SETTING MEETING MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Mirabella presided over the meeting and called the meeting to order at 5:07 P.M.

ROLL CALL

Roll call showed, Chairman Alexander Mirabella, Freeholder Angela R. Garretson, Freeholder Sergio Granados, Freeholder Christopher Hudak, Freeholder Bette Jane Kowalski, Freeholder Kimberly Palmieri-Mouded, Freeholder Andrea Staten, and Freeholder Rebecca Williams were present.

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 Freeholder Board. As is our custom, we begin with thanks for the people of Union County, who are looking out for one another, and taking care of each other during the COVID-19 outbreak. As many of you know, Governor Murphy has ordered another step in the gradual re-opening of New Jersey. However, this is not the time to drop our guard. I encourage everyone to keep up the good work, and help keep our Union County family safe.

With that, here are some updates on Union County services. Just a quick reminder -- you can get more details about all of these programs on the County website, ucnj.org. If you need a COVID test, the County's free Drive-Through COVID-19 Test Center continues to operate every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday at the Kean University campus in Union Township. If you need food assistance, the campus is also the site of our drive-up food distribution events. The next one will take place on Saturday, September 12. Our Department of Human Services has also launched a new Food Insecurity Task Force to help ensure that assistance reaches all who need it. And, the County has entered into an innovative new partnership with Kean, to provide for educational and student

employment opportunities through the Test Center. Our free Mobile Test Unit is also continuing to visit communities throughout the County to provide tests on a walk-up basis. There is actually a walk-up event going on this evening in Hillside. The next one will take place on September 10, in Garwood. Also, the Union County Freeholders COVID Response Team is surveying residents about the Test Center and the walk-up events. If you get a call, a text message, or a knock on the door from the COVID Response Team, please take a few moments to help them out.

And now, I would like to thank the family of LGBTQ activist Marsha P. Johnson for their work in establishing a memorial celebrating her life, in her home town of Elizabeth. The County's Office of LGBTQ Affairs will help coordinate the effort.

We also have two outdoor events coming up – our third annual Hispanic Heritage Month celebration, and our first ever drive-up concert, featuring the B Street Band.

Just one more important reminder -- the last day to respond to the 2020 Census online is Wednesday, September 30. The Census will impact our federal funding for years to come. If you haven't been counted yet, for the sake of our whole community please visit census.gov online and participate.

And finally, with the November 3 General Election getting closer, I have a message from Union County Clerk Joanne Rajoppi, and Board of Elections Administrator Nicole DiRado. You can visit their offices online, call them, or email them if you have any questions about the upcoming election. Please, don't get distracted by Internet rumors on random websites or social media. If you need information, go directly to the source.

And now, let's turn to tonight's agenda.

Chairman Mirabella also noted former Vice Chairman Angel G. Estrada's absence during the Board's first meeting following his retirement. He extended his well wishes to former VC Estrada and his family, noting his many years of service to the Board and community. He recognized former Vice Chairman Estrada as an important and instrumental member of the Board during his tenure.

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 CLERKJoanne Rajoppi, County Clerk

1. Amending Resolution Number 2020-81 a contract with B&B Press Inc., Lebanon, New Jersey, to provide additional services needed as per Executive Order 177 mandating the General Elections to be primarily Vote By Mail, in an additional amount not to exceed \$555,300.24 for a total amount not to exceed \$1,169,849.71. **(Chairman Alexander Mirabella)**
2. Amending Resolution Number 2020-439 a contract with Full Service Mailers, Hackensack, New Jersey, to provide additional election mail services for the 2020 General Elections due to Executive Order 177 mandating the elections to be primarily Vote By Mail, in an amount not to exceed \$204,953.25 for a total not to exceed \$633,544.99. **(Chairman Alexander Mirabella)**
3. Amending Resolution Number 2020-531, a contract with Royal Printing Services, West New York, NJ, to provide additional printing services due to Executive Order 177 mandating the General Election to be primarily VBM due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, in an additional amount not to exceed \$39,822.00, for a total amount not to exceed \$2,874,526.00. **(Chairman Alexander Mirabella)**

Freeholder Hudak commended County Clerk Rajoppi and Administrator DiRado for expanding drop box locations in anticipation for the upcoming General Election, being conducted exclusively by mail. He also inquired about the role of USPS in this election as well as any interaction either office is having with the organization.

County Clerk Rajoppi advised that the ballots for the November General Election would be going out in waves, by alphabetical municipality order. She further advised that the ballots would not be processed through the county post office, but rather by a central distribution center. She noted that she had been in touch with the regional managers and was told they expected ballots to arrive to voters 2-3 days after receipt. She added that the same claim was made for the Primary Election, but some transit issues did arise. She noted that voters would have various alternatives for returning their ballot for this election, including: bringing them to the County Clerk's Election Division or the Board of Elections; returning them via USPS; utilizing one of the various drop boxes scattered throughout the county; or bringing the voted ballot to a polling location on November 3rd. She noted that per one of Murphy's Executive Orders, ballots could be processed up to ten days before the election and Cure Letters would be sent to voters to resolve any resulting issues from their ballot submission.

OFFICE OF THE UNION COUNTY PROSECUTORLyndsay V. Ruotolo, Acting Prosecutor

First Assistant Prosecutor Doreen Yanik represented the Office.

There were no questions or comments by the Board.

1. Authorizing the County Manager, through the Office of the Union County Prosecutor's Office, to apply for and accept funding from the State of New Jersey, Division of Administration, Department of Law and Public Safety for FFY19 Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) Grant Program for the project titled County

Sexual Assault Response Team/Forensic Nurse Examiner Program in the amount of \$87,451.00 in Federal funds with a required match of \$21,863.00 for a project total cost of \$109,314.00.00 for the period of October 1, 2020 through September 30, 2021. Subaward number VS-41-19. **(Chairman Alexander Mirabella)**

DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

Ronald Charles, Director

There were no questions or comments by the Board.

1. Authorizing the County Manager to enter into an agreement with Pro Libra Associates Inc. for Law Library services for the Union County Department of Corrections for the period of September 1, 2020 through December 31, 2020 in the amount not to exceed \$6,500.00. **(Chairman Alexander Mirabella)**

Chairman Mirabella asked Director Charles to confirm this item related to providing access to legal material and resources to inmates.

Director Charles confirmed that relative to ACA guidelines and NJ administrative codes, the County was obligated to provide access to legal services and resources to inmates. He added that a paralegal was also made available to inmates approximately 2-3 times a week to provide additional assistance with case law and motion discovery through CDs and audio components.

Chairman Mirabella recommended Public Safety Committee Chair Freeholder Garretson meet with Director Charles to remain abreast with arising changes in the department and the corrections facility.

DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Amy Wagner, Deputy County Manager/Director

1. Authorizing the County Manager to enter into a contract with Benevate, Inc. D/B/A Neighborly Software, Atlanta, GA, for the provision of software to expedite Community Development Block Grant subgrantee reimbursements and decrease document storing in an amount not to exceed \$32,500.00. **(Chairman Alexander Mirabella)**
2. Authorizing the County Manager to award a contract to Comcast Cable Communications, Holmdel, NJ for 2020 Census Campaign advertising in the amount not to exceed \$3,025.00. **(Chairman Alexander Mirabella)**

Freeholder Granados asked Deputy County Manager/Director Wagner for an update on the 2020 Census.

Deputy County Manager/Director Wagner advised that Union County ranked 11th in the state relative to response rate. She added that UC currently had a 69.2% self-response rate, compared to 70% in 2010. She noted that many resources, including campaigns were being organized in low-response areas to increase response rates. She noted the deadline as September 30th, advising that a requested extension had been denied by the Federal government.

DEPARTMENT OF ENGINEERING, PUBLIC WORKS & FACILITIES MANAGEMENTJoseph 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 Borough of New Providence to allow New Providence to own, install and operate a Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacon (RRFB) and an in-pavement flashing light crosswalk system to be located at the intersection of Springfield Avenue (C.R. 513) and Academy Street. **(Chairman Alexander Mirabella)**
2. Amending Resolution Number 2020-553 adopted on July 23, 2020, to CME Associates of Parlin, New Jersey to provide additional On-Call Environmental Engineering Services in an amount not to exceed \$20,000.00 for a new contract amount not to exceed \$65,000.00 (Union County Engineering Project Number 2019-014). **(Chairman Alexander Mirabella)**
3. Authorizing the County Manager to award the proposed open ended contract obtained through advertised public bidding in accordance with the Local Public Contracts Law, NJSA 40A:11-1 et seq. to: Weldon Materials, Inc., Westfield, NJ for the purpose of providing Road Materials for the Department of Engineering, Public Works & Facilities Management, Divisions of Public Works, Park Maintenance, and Park Environmental Services for a twelve (12) month period in an amount not to exceed \$761,676.75 (BA# UCCP 22-2020). With a twelve (12) option to extend. **(Freeholder Andrea Staten)**
4. Authorizing the County Manager to award the proposed open ended contract obtained through advertised public bidding in accordance with the Local Public Contracts laws, NJSA 40A:11-1 et seq. to: Louis Barbato Landscaping, Holbrook, New York for the purpose of providing and planting trees throughout Union County Parks and Roadways for the Department of Engineering, Public Works & Facilities Management for a twelve (12) month contract period in the amount not to exceed \$85,719.00 (BA# UCCP 21-2020). **(Freeholder Andrea Staten)**
5. Amending Resolution 2019-689 to exercise the option to extend the contract obtained through advertised public bidding in accordance with the Local Public Contracts law, NJSA 40A:11-1 et seq., Department of Engineering, Public Works & Facilities Management: Morton Salt, Inc., Chicago, IL, for the purpose of providing rock salt for an additional twelve month (12) period of October 29, 2020 through October 28, 2021 in the amount of not to exceed \$487,200.00 (BA #UCCP29-2019). **(Freeholder Andrea Staten)**

DEPARTMENT OF FINANCEBibi Taylor, Director

There were no questions or comments by the Board.

1. Resolution modifying the 2020 Union County adopted budget in the amount of \$10,000 as a result of notification received from the State of New Jersey,

Department of Children and Families, Division on Women for a program entitled: Sexual Assault Services Program (SASP) Grant. **(Freeholder Sergio Granados)**

2. Resolution modifying the 2020 Union County adopted budget in the Amount of \$92,545 as a result of notification received from the US Department of Housing and Urban Development for a program entitled: CARES ACT-Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher Program Grant. **(Freeholder Sergio Granados)**

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

Debbie-Ann Anderson, Director

Assistant Director Karen Dinsmore represented the Department.

There were no questions or comments by the Board.

1. Amending Resolution Number 2020-530 increasing funds for Year 2 of the Union County Division on Aging 2019-2021 Area Plan Contract, commencing January 1, 2020 through December 31, 2020 in the additional amount not to exceed \$65,538.00 for a total contract amount not to exceed \$5,957,453.00. **(Chairman Alexander Mirabella)**

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION

Ron Zuber, Director

There were no questions or comments by the Board.

1. Authorizing the County Manager to enter in to a contract with Aquatic Analysts, Middleville, NJ for the purchase of a compressor to provide lake aeration and the purpose of lake aerator maintenance at the County Parks at Black Brook Park, Cedar Brook Park, Meisel Park and Nomahegan Park in an amount not to exceed \$7,000.00. **(Freeholder Bette Jane Kowalski)**
2. Authorizing the County Manager to award \$9,400.00 to local organizations from the federal CARES Act through the New Jersey State Council on the Arts (NJSCA) to assist with salary support, fees for artists and/or contractual personnel and facility costs. **(Freeholder Bette Jane Kowalski)**

OFFICE OF THE COUNTY MANAGER

Edward Oatman, County Manager

1. Resolution to provide funding to the Union County Improvement Authority for preliminary expenses in the planning, design and undertakings for the new Union County Government Complex in the amount of \$2,000,000.00. **(Chairman Alexander Mirabella)**
2. Resolution Authorizing CARES Act Non-Profit Organizations Grants in an amount not to exceed \$4,000,000.00. **(Freeholder Sergio Granados)**
3. Resolution Authorizing CARES Act Safe Learning Setting Grants in an amount not to exceed \$ 4,000,000.00. **(Freeholder Sergio Granados)**

4. Amending Resolution Numbers 2020-491 and 2020-545 to increase the total funding for the Emergency Small Business Grant Program by an additional amount of \$4,000,000.00 for a total funding amount of not to exceed \$8,000,000.00. **(Freeholder Sergio Granados)**

Chairman Mirabella spoke relative to this item and the invaluable funding it would provide to struggling businesses. He added that the County had been incredibly responsive and proactive relative to COVID-19 and addressing the growing needs of residents and local businesses.

County Manager Oatman noted that they had received 739 applications and that the County intended to help as many residents as possible with the acquired funding, hence why additional funding was being sought continue to provide financial assistance.

Deputy County Manager/Director Wagner advised that applications were being feverishly processed, noting that 42 businesses had already been approved to receive funding.

Chairman Mirabella noted the County's leadership and response to community needs in light of COVID-19.

Freeholder Williams inquired about the turnaround time for businesses to receive funding.

Deputy County Manager/Director Wagner advised that those businesses that had received approval could see funding as soon as next week. She noted that Purchase Orders requiring original signatures would be used to furnish funds. She added that pre-paid postage had also been provided to facilitate the process.

FREEHOLDER SPONSORED RESOLUTIONS

1. Resolution offering this Board's sympathies to the family of Irving Gene Callender during their time of sorrow. **(Freeholder Angela R. Garretson & The Entire Board)**
2. Resolution offering this Board's deepest sympathies to the family of Dr. Michel Bitritto, the first Democrat female elected to Summit City Council and past president of the NJ Women's Political Caucus, during their time of sorrow. **(Freeholder Christopher Hudak & The Entire Board)**
3. Resolution offering this Board's deepest sympathies to the family of Beatrice Russo, of Linden, who passed away at 96 years of age. **(Freeholder Christopher Hudak & The Entire Board)**
4. Resolution recognizing Kathleen Willis for her many years of service to the community through her personal and professional career with Cranford Family Care; and further wishing her health and happiness in her retirement. **(Freeholder Bette Jane Kowalski & The Entire Board)**
5. Resolution acknowledging September 2020 as National Suicide Prevention Awareness Month, which remembers those affected by suicide, and raises

- awareness and encourages to focus efforts on directing treatment to those who need it most; and to further encourage all community members to normalize discussions and support one another around reducing the stigma associated with seeking mental health treatment for common mental health matters such as depression, anxiety and other mental states. **(Freeholder Andrea Staten & The Entire Board)**
6. Resolution acknowledging September 2020 as National Recovery Month, which highlights the achievements of individuals who have reclaimed their lives in long-term recovery and honors the service providers who make their recovery possible. **(Freeholder Andrea Staten & The Entire Board)**
 7. Resolution offering this Board's sincere gratitude to Freeholder Vice Chairman Angel G. Estrada Angel for his friendship and camaraderie and recognizing his many years of impactful service to the residents of Union County; and further, wishing him health and happiness upon his retirement from the Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders. **(Chairman Alexander Mirabella & The Entire Board)**

ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Mirabella asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. On a motion made by Freeholder Williams and seconded by Freeholder Garretson a voice vote showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:37 P.M.

UNION COUNTY BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS 2020 MEETING SCHEDULE

Please note that meetings are regularly held on Thursday evenings. Agenda Setting Sessions and Regular Meetings are held at 6:30pm in the Freeholders' Meeting Room, Administration Building, 10 Elizabethtown Plaza, 6th Floor, Elizabeth, New Jersey, unless otherwise specified. In the event an Agenda Setting Session and Regular Meeting are held on the same night, the Agenda Setting Session will commence at 6:30pm and the Regular Meeting will commence as soon as possible after the Agenda Setting Session.

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

REORGANIZATION MEETING - SUNDAY, JANUARY 5, 2020 at 12:00 pm
Assignment Judge Karen M. Cassidy's Courtroom, 2 Broad Street, Elizabeth, NJ

2020 MEETING SCHEDULE

AGENDA SETTING SESSION

January 23, 2020

February 6, 2020
February 20, 2020

March 5, 2020
March 26, 2020**

April 2, 2020**
April 23, 2020**

May 14, 2020***
May 21, 2020

June 4, 2020
June 18, 2020

July 23, 2020

August 13, 2020

September 3, 2020
September 10, 2020

October 1, 2020
October 15, 2020

November 5, 2020
November 12, 2020

December 3, 2020
December 10, 2020

REGULAR MEETINGS

January 23, 2020

February 6, 2020
February 20, 2020

March 5, 2020
March 26, 2020**

April 2, 2020**
April 23, 2020**

May 14, 2020***
May 21, 2020

June 4, 2020
June 18, 2020

July 23, 2020

August 13, 2020

September 3, 2020
September 10, 2020

October 1, 2020
October 15, 2020

November 5, 2020
November 12, 2020

December 3, 2020
December 10, 2020

* March 18, 2020 Special Meeting at 5:30pm was held via conference call due to state of emergency relative to the COVID-19 coronavirus.

** Meeting conducted remotely and electronically due to state of emergency relative to the COVID-19 coronavirus.

*** Meeting cancelled.


James E. Pelletiere, RMC, QPA
Clerk of the Board