



UNION COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

THURSDAY, MARCH 03, 2022
AGENDA SETTING MEETING MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Williams presided over the meeting and called the meeting to order at 6:00 P.M.

ROLL CALL

Roll call showed Chair Rebecca Williams, Vice Chair Christopher Hudak, Commissioner James E. Baker, Jr., Commissioner Angela R. Garretson, Commissioner Sergio Granados, Commissioner Bette Jane Kowalski, Commissioner Lourdes M. Leon, Commissioner Alexander Mirabella, and Commissioner Kimberly Palmieri-Mouded 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.

PRESENTATIONS BY THE BOARD

A resolution presentation was made by the Board to the St. Patrick's Day Parade Committee in recognition of the annual Union County St. Patrick's Day Parade; congratulating the following Union County St. Patrick's Day Parade Committee 2022 honorees: Michael McNany, Grand Marshal; Damien Holmes, Adjutant and Pamela Joyce, General Chairwoman.

Grand Marshal Michael McNany thanked the Board for the recognition, adding that it was a great honor. He thanked everyone for the continued support, noting the difficulties of the last few years due to COVID-19. He thanked General Chairwoman Pamela Joyce, Adjutant Damien Holmes, and Kathy Noonan for all their efforts, adding that the parade would not be possible without them. He also recognized his chief-of-staff and brother Ed and thanked him for his support, adding that there was no better man around. To close, he invited everyone to join the committee at Union County's St. Patrick's Day Parade on March 12th in Union.

General Chairwoman Pamela Joyce thanked the Board of Commissioners for the recognition and honor, adding that she looked forward to the celebration after a long, two-year hiatus.

Adjutant Damien Holmes thanked the Commissioners for their continued support, adding that the parade would not be possible without them.

2022 EXECUTIVE BUDGET

Chair Williams called upon 2022 Fiscal Affairs Chairman, Commissioner Granados, to speak relative to County Manager Oatman's Executive Budget, presented to the Board.

Commissioner Granados thanked County Manager Oatman for his leadership, in particular, as it relates to overseeing the daily operations of the County of Union. He noted that as Fiscal Committee Chairman, he was proud to announce a 0 % increase in the County's 2022 budget for the third year in a row. He noted the importance of this feat as residents moved into 2022 still feeling the effects of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic as well as contending with the aftermath of Tropical Storm Ida. He added that this accomplishment was achieved through the vision and advisement of the Commissioner Board as well as the planning and execution of County Manager Oatman alongside Finance Director Bibi Taylor and the various Departmental Directors. He advised that the County continued to maintain its triple A bond rating, the highest rating a government agency can achieve. He advised that even with a zero increase in taxes, the County of Union continued to afford residents the services and resources they need and deserve, including COVID-19 resources, food distributions, and various senior services. He noted that on March 16th and March 23rd, the Fiscal Affairs Committee would be holding special finance meetings related to the budget at the County Administration Building. He added that the meetings would be open to the public, but advised that no public commentary would be permitted during these meetings, as they were merely meant to finalize the budget before it was officially announced on April 7th. He advised that members of the public would be permitted to comment on the budget during the Commissioner meeting on May 12th, prior to its adoption. He thanked everyone involved in the budget process, in particular County Manager Oatman, and thanked him for his continued support of the Commissioner Board. He noted that thanks to County Manager Oatman's strong management and leadership, Union County was able to prioritize residents, provide essential services, and continue efficient operations, while also keeping taxes down.

County Manager Oatman thanked Commissioner Granados as well as the other Members of the Board for their efforts and direction. He also thanked the Departmental Directors, Constitutional Officers, UCVTS, and UCC for their efforts, noting the accomplishment as a team effort. He noted that it was a challenge to achieve a zero increase, adding that it was necessary to help residents contend with the escalating prices of gas and everyday goods.

APPROVAL OF COMMUNICATIONS

Note and File

Chair Williams advised that the Communications would be approved later during the Regular Meeting.

OFFICE OF THE UNION COUNTY PROSECUTOR**William Daniel, Prosecutor**

There were no questions or comments by the Board.

1. Authorizing the County Manager to enter into a contract with Catherine Vulcano, Berkeley Heights, NJ to serve as the Acting SART/FNE Coordinator for the Union County Prosecutor's Office for the period of March 4, 2022 through June 30, 2022 in an amount not to exceed \$12,750.00. **(Chair Rebecca Lynne Williams)**
2. Authorizing the County Manager to apply for and accept funding from the State of New Jersey, Department of Law and Public Safety, Office of the Attorney General under the SFY22 Law Enforcement Officers Training and Equipment Fund (LEOTEF) Grant Program, in the amount of \$16,317.00 for the period of July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022. (Subaward Number LEOTEF 10-22) **(Chair Rebecca Lynne Williams)**
3. Amending Resolution Number 2021-750, to revise Accounts numbers for the allocation of SANE contracts with no other changes to the original total contract amount or other terms and conditions of the agreement. **(Chair Rebecca Lynne Williams)**

DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**Amy Crisp Wagner, Deputy County Manager/Director**

1. Authorizing the County Manager to award a contract obtained through advertised public bidding, (BA# UCCP 8-2022) in accordance with the Local Public Contracts Law, NJSA 40A:11-1 et seq: Economic Development: Johnston Communications, Springfield, NJ, for the purpose of providing IT Infrastructure, Fiber Optic Network Advanced Applications and Services for all County buildings and County parks in the amount not to exceed of \$12,214,777.56 for a contract period of 24 consecutive months, upon full execution of the contract, with a 24 month extension option. **(Chair Rebecca Lynne Williams)**

Chair Williams asked Deputy County Manager to elaborate on this item. She also asked about the prospective end date for the first two phases of the project.

Deputy County Manager Wagner advised that a few months ago, the Board had approved a resolution allowing her to request bids for the installation of a fiber ring that would facilitate and improve connectivity between all County buildings and County parks. She added that future plans also included connectivity with municipal buildings and schools throughout the County. She advised that this item would award the contract for the first two phases of the project. She noted that the Department would be in looking into other funding opportunities as a means to expand and broaden this resource. She advised that the approximate timeline for the first two phases was 24 months, adding that supply chain issues could affect this timeframe but she felt confident that 24 months was still a reasonable estimation.

2. Authorizing the use of the Competitive Contracting process, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40:11-4.3(a) and N.J.S.A. 40A:11-4.1b(2), for the provision of providing Emergency

Rental Assistance Program Application Processing. (Chair Rebecca Lynne Williams)

3. Authorizing the County Manager to enter into a contract with Altice Media Solutions, LLC, d/b/a A4 Media, LLC, Piscataway, NJ for the purpose of providing television advertising for the Emergency Rental Assistance Program, in an amount not to exceed \$30,000.00. **(Chair Rebecca Lynne Williams)**

Commissioner Kowalski asked if the purpose of advertising was to inform hard-to-reach residents about this assistance.

Deputy County Manager Wagner advised that the County opened a portal for emergency rental assistance last year, adding that the contract with the initial provider had ended. She noted that since then, the Department had been looking for alternative providers that could streamline the review of paperwork to facilitate a timelier allocation of funds to residents in need. She further advised that the new portal would be active starting Monday, noting 2,000 individuals currently on the waiting list. She added that she expected need to increase once the eviction moratorium was lifted. She advised that this particular item would be used to fund TV advertisements as well as advertisements on NJ Transit and train hubs mainly in English and Spanish, adding that some ads would also be in Portuguese and Haitian-Creole. She further advised that the Department would also work to offer intervention services for individuals currently at risk of eviction through the courts.

4. Authorizing the County Manager to enter into a contract with Intersection Media LLC, Secaucus, New Jersey, for the purpose of providing print advertising on buses and at NJ train stations for the Emergency Rental Assistance Program for the contract period of April 1, 2022 through April 30, 2022, in an amount not to exceed \$37,859.50. **(Chair Rebecca Lynne Williams)**
5. Authorizing the County Manager to enter into a contract with Comcast Cable Company dba Comcast Cable Communications Mgmt, LLC, Homdel, NJ for the purpose of providing television advertising for the Emergency Rental Assistance Program, in an amount not to exceed \$30,000.00. **(Chair Rebecca Lynne Williams)**

Commissioner Baker asked if this item related to an alternate outlet to advertise the Emergency Rental Assistance Program.

Deputy County Manager Wagner confirmed this to be the case, noting that Altice Media Solutions and Comcast Cable Communications were different cable providers that the County would be using for these ads. She noted that Intersection Media would be providing ads for NJ transit.

6. Amending Resolution Number 2022-130, a contract with 4Connections, LLC, changing the contract date from December 1, 2021 through November 30, 2026 to December 18, 2021 through December 17, 2026, with no change to the contract award amount. **(Chair Rebecca Lynne Williams)**

Commissioner Baker asked Deputy County Manager Wagner to elaborate on this item.

Deputy County Manager Wagner advised that original resolution for a fiber ring in the City of Elizabeth, adopted by the Board several weeks ago, reflected an incorrect date. She noted that the above item was only meant to correct the date, adding that this contract would be eliminated once the County had finalized its fiber ring installation.

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 award a contract obtained through advertised public bidding (BA #9-2022) in accordance with the Local Public Contracts Law, NJSA 40A:11-1 et seq; Magic Touch Construction Co., Inc., Keyport, NJ, for the purpose of providing plumbing services for twenty-four (24) consecutive months upon full execution of the contract, with the provision for one (1) twenty-four (24) month optional extension, in an amount not to exceed \$126,297.50. **(Commissioner Lourdes M. Leon)**
2. Resolution granting permission to the Township of Berkeley Heights to hang a banner across Springfield Avenue and Plainfield Avenue from May 2, 2022 to June 6, 2022 advertising the 2022 Berkeley Heights Downtown Summer Block Party. **(Commissioner Lourdes M. Leon)**
3. Authorizing the County Manager to take all actions necessary and execute any and all documents necessary to complete the acquisition of various properties from the New Jersey Department of Transportation, designated as excess land, for the purposes of parking for state and county employees at 921 Elizabeth Avenue, Elizabeth. **(Commissioner Lourdes M. Leon)**

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

Debbie-Ann Anderson, Director

1. Authorizing the County Manager to enter into a contract with Geneva Worldwide Interpretation Service, New York, NY to provide interpretation services to the non-English speaking clients of the UC Department of Human Services, Division of Social Services for the period of January 1, 2022 through December 31, 2022 in an amount not to exceed \$15,000.00. **(Commissioner Sergio Granados)**

Chair Williams asked Director Anderson about the various languages offered through this service.

Director Anderson advised that the vendor offered interpretation services in 28 languages. She noted that, at the moment, the top languages in Union County were Spanish, Arabic, Haitian Creole, and Farsi. She added that last year, 1,500 had been served through this service.

2. Amending Resolution Number 2021-764, to reflect a change in appropriations accounts from FFY2021 TO FFY2020 for one subcontract award only within the 2021-22 HEARTH Emergency Solutions (HES) Grant Spending plan; with no other changes to the grant terms or conditions of the agreement. **(Commissioner Sergio Granados)**

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATIONRon Zuber, Director

1. Authorizing Change Order #1 (Final) to the contract awarded to Murray Paving and Concrete, LLC, Hackensack, NJ through the State of New Jersey Educational Services Commission of NJ (ESCNJ) #65MCESCCPS Contract No: ESCNJ 16/17GCI for additional construction service for renovations to Walter E Ulrich Pool, Rahway, NJ in the amount of \$114,307.22 for a new contract amount not to exceed \$2,985,768.98. **(Commissioner Bette Jane Kowalski)**

Vice Chair Hudak asked Director Zuber to elaborate on this item and asked about the status of the project.

Director Zuber advised that the cited vendor had been used by the County to renovate the Walter E. Ulrich Pool last spring. He noted that when the pool was opened, it was revealed that the chlorine tanks were not the right size and had to be replaced to align with the use of the pool. He added that a new leak detection system had also been installed after a leak had been noticed originating from the pump house. He also advised that the pool had been winterized for the first year under the new system, but would not be winterized again. He noted that a 9-inch curb had also been incorporated in the project, adding that this was the final detail.

2. Authorizing the County Manager through the Office of Cultural and Heritage Affairs, to reallocate funds received from the New Jersey State Council on the Arts to the following 38 Union County agencies and organizations as recommended by the Art Grant Committee of the Cultural and Heritage Programs Advisory Board and subsequently approved by the entire Advisory Board in an amount not to exceed \$200,000.00. **(Commissioner Bette Jane Kowalski)**
3. Authorizing Change Order #1A to the contract awarded to Paragon Restoration Corp., Kenilworth, NJ through the public bidding process (BA#25-2021) for additional electrical restoration service for the rehabilitation of House #7 At Historic Deserted Village, Berkeley Heights in the amount of \$48,545.00, for a new contract amount not to exceed \$901,045.00. **(Commissioner Bette Jane Kowalski)**

Commissioner Mirabella noted his long-standing support of the Historic Deserted Village and inquired about the status of the project and potential upcoming phases.

Director Zuber advised that he did not believe that the cited house at the Historic Deserted Village was completed yet. He added that this item related to electrical work to control temperature settings within the structure. He advised that once House #7 was completed, they would be moving up the road to the museum and Masker's Barn, adding that Masker's Barn received approximately 130 annual reservations. He noted that the Department would be applying for a grant this year in the amount of \$450,000 that would be matched by the County, adding that as the rehabilitation on-site continued, the Department would continue pursuing grant opportunities to partially fund the project.

Commissioner Mirabella asked Director Zuber to provide a plan related to the prospective progress and development of the area over the next several years.

Director Zuber advised that he would provide these details as the project progressed.

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

Andrew Moran, Director

There were no questions or comments by the Board.

1. Authorizing the County Manager to enter into a contract with Lehrer-Gibilsco Funeral Home, Inc., Rahway, New Jersey, to provide livery services for the Union County Medical Examiner's Office for the period of January 1, 2022 through December 31, 2022, in a total amount not to exceed \$200,000.00. **(Commissioner Sergio Granados)**
2. Authorizing the County Manager to enter into an agreement with Hoffman International, Piscataway, New Jersey, for the procurement of Traffic Safety Equipment in an amount not to exceed \$29,738.64. **(Commissioner Kimberly Palmieri-Mouded)**

OFFICE OF THE COUNTY COUNSEL

Bruce H. Bergen, County Counsel

There were no questions or comments by the Board.

1. Authorizing the County Manager to enter into a contract with The Weiner Law Group, LLP, Parsippany, NJ, as Special Counsel to the County to provide legal services by way of advice and guidance concerning shared services agreements during the period of January 1, 2022 through December 31, 2022 in the amount not to exceed \$15,000.00. **(Chair Rebecca Lynne Williams)**

COMMISSIONER SPONSORED RESOLUTIONS

1. Re-appointing Lauren Kaplan-Sagal (Medical Society), Morgan Thompson (At-Large), Michelle Cislo (Family Member) and S. Mira Vanjari (County Resident) as members to the Mental Health Advisory Board for a term beginning January 1, 2022 through December 31, 2024. **(Commissioner James Baker Jr)**
2. Re-appointing Carol Berger (Unfunded Provider Agency) and Nadina Baskerville Thomas (Criminal Justice) to the Local Advisory Committee on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse (LACADA) for a term beginning January 1, 2022 through December 31, 2024. **(Commissioner James Baker Jr)**
3. Resolution re-appointing the following members to the Union County Advisory Council on Aging: Ellen Staunton, Elaine Haith, Eugene Rosner and Leonora M. Zacarias for a term beginning on January 1, 2022 through December 31, 2024. **(Commissioner Lourdes M. Leon)**
4. Authorizing Payment of County Requested/Court Appointed Receiver for the Briant Park Olmstead Conservancy matter to Lawrence N. Lavigne, Esq., LLC, Union, New Jersey, for services rendered in the collection of previously awarded grant funds from the Green Acres Program, Department of Environmental Protection, State of New Jersey. Payment is made from and through the Open Space, Recreation and

Historic Preservation Trust Fund in the amount of not to exceed \$5,565.00.
(Commissioner Kimberly Palmieri-Mouded)

5. Amending Resolution Number 2021-972, a contract with Colliers Engineering and Design, Red Bank, New Jersey to conduct NJDEP-compliant Preliminary Assessment work at the property located at 1580 Cooper Road, Scotch Plains, New Jersey in the additional amount of \$18,000.00 for a new contract amount not to exceed \$46,950.00. **(Commissioner Kimberly Palmieri-Mouded)**
6. Amending Resolution Number 2021-970, a contract with Colliers Engineering and Design, Red Bank, New Jersey to conduct additional required NJDEP-compliant Preliminary Assessment work at the property located at 735-737 Springfield Avenue, Berkeley Heights in the additional amount not to exceed \$2,500.00 for a new contract amount not to exceed \$16,000.00. **(Commissioner Kimberly Palmieri-Mouded)**
7. Resolution congratulating the following individuals for their recognition by the Union County Commission on the Status of Women for the 2022 Woman of Excellence Award: Kathy Arminio, Charlotte Brown, Sylvia Hicks, Audry Kelly, Amanda Parrish-Block, Gwendolyn Ryan, Elizabeth Stamler, and Anita Thomas. **(Commissioner Kimberly Palmieri-Mouded & The Entire Board)**
8. Resolution offering this Board's deepest sympathies to the family of Lorraine Bunk, a lifelong resident of Linden, during their time of time of sorrow. **(Vice Chair Christopher Hudak & The Entire Board)**
9. Resolution re-appointing Robert Rachlin as a Commissioner to the Union County Utilities Authority for a five (5) year term commencing February 1, 2022 and expiring on January 31, 2027; and further appointing Kyle Holder as a Commissioner to the Union County Utilities Authority for a five (5) year term commencing on February 1, 2022 and expiring on January 31, 2027. **(Vice Chair Christopher Hudak)**
10. Proclaiming March 8, 2022 as International Women's Day and the month of March as Women's History Month throughout the County of Union. **(Chair Rebecca Lynne Williams & The Entire Board)**
11. Resolution congratulating the Union County St. Patrick's Day Committee upon its 25th Annual Union County St. Patrick's Day Parade to take place on March, 12, 2022; and further congratulating Michael McNany (Grand Marshal); Damien Holmes (Adjutant) and Pamela Joyce (General Chairwoman). **(Chair Rebecca Lynne Williams & The Entire Board)**
12. Resolution condemning the Russian invasion of the Ukraine government and any actions taken by Russia that escalates the conflict further; and further implores Russia to return to diplomatic solutions to resolve their conflict with the democratic and independent government of Ukraine. **(Chair Rebecca Lynne Williams & The Entire Board)**

ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting was adjourned at 6:23 P.M.

**UNION COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
2022 MEETING SCHEDULE
REORGANIZATION MEETING - THURSDAY, JANUARY 6, 2021 at 6:00 pm
Courthouse Plaza, 2 Broad Street, Elizabeth, NJ**

2022 MEETING SCHEDULE

AGENDA SETTING SESSION

January 20, 2022

February 3, 2022
February 17, 2022

March 3, 2022
March 24, 2022

April 7, 2022
April 21, 2022

May 12, 2022
May 26, 2022

June 9, 2022
June 23, 2022

July 14, 2022

August 11, 2022

September 15, 2022

October 6, 2022
October 20, 2022

November 10, 2022

December 1, 2022
December 15, 2022

REGULAR MEETINGS

January 20, 2022

February 3, 2022
February 17, 2022

March 3, 2022
March 24, 2022

April 7, 2022
April 21, 2022

May 12, 2022
May 26, 2022

June 9, 2022
June 23, 2022

July 14, 2022

August 11, 2022

September 15, 2022

October 6, 2022
October 20, 2022

November 10, 2022

December 1, 2022
December 15, 2022


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 6:00pm and the Regular Meeting to commence as soon as possible after the Agenda Setting Session, unless otherwise noted.

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