



## UNION COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

THURSDAY, APRIL 07, 2022  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

### CALL TO ORDER

Chair Williams presided over the meeting and called the meeting to order at 6:10 P.M.

### ROLL CALL

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

### APPROVAL OF COMMUNICATIONS

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Note and File

Chair Williams called for a motion to approve the Communications. On a motion made by Commissioner Mirabella and seconded by Vice Chair Hudak roll call showed seven members of the Board voted in the affirmative, with Commissioner Baker and Commissioner Leon absent.

### ORDINANCE FOR ADOPTION

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Clerk of the Board Pellettiere read Ordinance No. 837-2022 by title.

**837-2022 REFUNDING BOND ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE REFUNDING OF \$35,375,000 AGGREGATE PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF OUTSTANDING BONDS OF THE COUNTY OF UNION, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, APPROPRIATING A SUM NOT EXCEEDING \$35,000,000 TO PAY THE COST THEREOF AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF NOT EXCEEDING \$35,000,000 AGGREGATE PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF REFUNDING BONDS OF SAID COUNTY TO FINANCE SUCH APPROPRIATION.**

BE IT ORDAINED by the Board of County Commissioners of the County of Union, State of New Jersey, as follows:

Section 1. The County of Union (the "County"), State of New Jersey is hereby authorized to refund \$35,375,000 aggregate principal amount of outstanding bonds (subject to redemption prior to their stated maturities) dated June 15, 2012 and maturing on or after March 1, 2023 (the "Outstanding Bonds").

The Outstanding Bonds consist of the following three issues of bonds, bearing interest at the rates per annum, payable on March 1 and September 1 of each year until maturity or prior redemption, and maturing in annual installments on March 1 in each year, as follows:

**\$13,800,000 General Improvement Bonds of 2012**

<u>Year</u>	<u>Principal Amount</u>	<u>Interest Rate</u>
2023	\$6,900,000	3.00%
2024	6,900,000	3.00

**\$14,920,000 County Vocational-Technical School  
Bonds of 2012  
(New Jersey School Bond Reserve Act)**

<u>Year</u>	<u>Principal Amount</u>	<u>Interest Rate</u>
2023	\$ 900,000	3.00%
2024	900,000	3.00

2025	1,640,000	3.00
2026	1,640,000	3.00
2027	1,640,000	3.00
2028	1,640,000	3.25
2029	1,640,000	3.25
2030	1,640,000	3.50
2031	1,640,000	3.50
2032	1,640,000	3.50

### **\$6,655,000 Redevelopment Bonds of 2012**

<u>Year</u>	<u>Principal Amount</u>	<u>Interest Rate</u>
2023	\$370,000	3.00%
2024	370,000	3.00
2025	740,000	3.00
2026	740,000	3.00
2027	740,000	3.00
2028	740,000	3.25
2029	740,000	3.25
2030	740,000	3.50
2031	740,000	3.50
2032	735,000	3.50

The Outstanding Bonds are subject to optional redemption on or after March 1, 2022 at a redemption price of 100%.

The Board of County Commissioners may determine by subsequent resolution not to refund a portion of the Outstanding Bonds.

Section 2. The Board of County Commissioners of the County has ascertained and hereby determines that the Outstanding Bonds set forth in Section 1 of this ordinance have not been paid or discharged and that the County is authorized by Section 51(a) of the Local Bond Law of New Jersey (Chapter 2 of Title 40A of the New Jersey Statutes Annotated, as amended; the "Local

Bond Law") to issue its refunding bonds as hereinafter provided to refund the Outstanding Bonds. The object of the refunding is to effect debt service savings for the County.

Section 3. A sum not exceeding \$35,000,000 is hereby appropriated (a) to refund the Outstanding Bonds set forth in Section 1 of this ordinance in the aggregate principal amount of \$35,375,000 and (b) to pay an amount not exceeding \$350,000 for the cost of the issuance of the refunding bonds, including underwriter's compensation, printing, advertising, financial and legal expenses therefor, as permitted by Section 51(b) of the Local Bond Law (collectively, the "Purpose").

Section 4. To finance the Purpose, refunding bonds of said County in an aggregate principal amount not exceeding \$35,000,000 are hereby authorized to be issued pursuant to the Local Bond Law (the "Refunding Bonds"). The Refunding Bonds shall be sold at private sale by resolution of the Board of County Commissioners and shall be in registered form and shall contain the word "refunding" in their title and shall recite that they are issued pursuant to the Local Bond Law and shall bear such date or dates, mature at such time or times not exceeding 40 years

from their date, bear interest at such rate or rates per annum, be payable at such time or times, be in such denominations, carry such registration privileges, be executed in such manner consistent with the provisions of the Local Bond Law for bonds of a county, be payable at such place or places, and be subject to such terms of redemption, with or without premium, as may be hereafter determined by resolution of the Board of County Commissioners within the limitations prescribed by law.

Section 5. The Refunding Bonds shall be direct, unlimited and general obligations of the County and the County shall be obligated to levy ad valorem taxes upon all taxable real property within the County for the payment of the principal of and the interest on the Refunding Bonds without limitation as to rate or amount. The full faith and credit of the County are hereby pledged to the punctual payment of the principal of and the interest on the Refunding Bonds. Each Refunding Bond issued pursuant to this ordinance shall recite that all conditions, acts and things required by the Constitution or statutes of the State of New Jersey to exist, to have happened and to have been performed precedent to and in the issuance of the Refunding Bond exist, have happened and have been

performed, and that the Refunding Bond, together with all other indebtedness of the County, is within every debt and other limit prescribed by the Constitution or statutes of said State.

Section 6. The Director of Finance is hereby authorized to execute a certificate addressed to the underwriters of the Refunding Bonds stating that the preliminary official statement to be prepared by the County with respect to the Refunding Bonds is "deemed final" as of its date within the meaning of Rule 15c2-12 of the Securities and Exchange Commission. The distribution of such preliminary official statement to potential purchasers of the Refunding Bonds is hereby approved.

Section 7. All matters with respect to the Refunding Bonds not determined by this ordinance shall be determined by subsequent resolution or resolutions to be hereafter adopted by the Board of County Commissioners of the County, or the performance or determination thereof delegated by resolution or resolutions, to the Director of Finance.

Section 8. It is hereby determined and stated that the Supplemental Debt Statement required by the Local Bond Law has been duly made and filed in the office of the Clerk of the Board of County

Commissioners of said County, and that such statement so filed shows that the gross debt of said County, as defined in Section 43 of the Local Bond Law, is increased by this ordinance by \$35,000,000, but \$35,375,000 (the principal amount of the Outstanding Bonds being paid from the proceeds of the Refunding Bonds) shall be deducted from gross debt pursuant to Section 52 of the Local Bond Law, and that the issuance of the bonds authorized by this ordinance will be within all debt limitations prescribed by said Local Bond Law.

Section 9. It is hereby determined and stated that no sum need be appropriated hereby as a down payment.

Section 10. The County is hereby authorized to enter into any agreements that may be necessary to effect the purchase of securities, as permitted by Sections 53(c) and 60 of the Local Bond Law, to accomplish the refunding.

Section 11. This refunding bond ordinance shall take effect twenty days after the first publication thereof after final passage as provided by the Local Bond Law.

Clerk of the Board Pelletiere requested that the Board introduce Ordinance No. 838-2022 for first reading while he confirmed the time cited on the public notice for the adoption of Ordinance No. 837-2022.

**PUBLIC COMMENT PORTION**

The meeting was opened for the purpose of commenting on Ordinance Number 837-2022 only.

Bruce Paterson, of Garwood, asked for more information related to Ordinance No. 837-2022.

Director Taylor advised that the purpose of this ordinance was to refund new debt at a lower coupon rate, adding that it would allow for the defeasing of old debt while also taking advantage of market conditions, which would result in savings in the amount of \$1,326,624.38 without extending the authorization period. She noted that a summary of the ordinance had been published, detailing the refund.

Chair Williams asked Director Taylor to confirm the amount of savings.

Director Taylor noted that Ordinance No. 837-2022 would allow for refunding at higher interest rates and issue lower interest rates, yielding approximately \$1.3 million in savings.

Vice Chair Hudak commended County Manager Oatman as well as the Finance Committee for taking advantage of bond rates as interest rates continue to climb.

**FINAL READING STATEMENT**

Commissioner Sergio Granados, Fiscal Subcommittee Chairman, moved Ordinance Number 837-2022 for Final Reading and authorized the Clerk of the Board to advertise same in accordance with the law.

On a motion made by Commissioner Granados and seconded by Commissioner Mirabella roll call showed seven members of the Board voted in the affirmative, with Commissioner Baker and Commissioner Leon absent.

**ORDINANCE FOR INTRODUCTION**

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Clerk of the Board Pellettiere read Ordinance 838-2022 by title.

**838-2022 BOND ORDINANCE TO AUTHORIZE THE RENOVATION AND EXPANSION OF THE PHYSICAL EDUCATION FACILITY AT THE CRANFORD CAMPUS FOR UNION COUNTY COLLEGE IN, BY AND FOR THE COUNTY OF UNION, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, TO APPROPRIATE THE SUM OF \$5,635,800 TO PAY THE COST THEREOF, TO AUTHORIZE THE ISSUANCE OF BONDS TO FINANCE SUCH APPROPRIATION AND TO PROVIDE FOR THE ISSUANCE OF BOND ANTICIPATION NOTES IN ANTICIPATION OF THE ISSUANCE OF SUCH BONDS.**

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees of Union  
County College (the "Board of Trustees") has



heretofore determined by resolution that it is necessary to sell bonds or notes in order to raise money for the renovation and expansion of the physical education facility at the Cranford Campus and has delivered a statement of the estimated cost of such project and the amount of money presently needed for such project to the Board of School Estimate of Union County College (the "Board of School Estimate"); and

WHEREAS, the Board of School Estimate has heretofore determined by resolution that funds are necessary for the project specified in the statement of the Board of Trustees and has determined the sum of money presently needed for such project and the amount thereof to be raised by the County of Union by the issuance of bonds or notes and has delivered a certificate to that effect together with the statement of the Board of Trustees to the Board of County Commissioners of the County of Union, New Jersey; NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT ORDAINED by the Board of County Commissioners of the County of Union, State of New Jersey, as follows:

Section 1. The County of Union (the "County"), State of New Jersey is hereby authorized to undertake the renovation and expansion of the physical

education facility at the Cranford Campus for Union County College, including expansion of the existing gym, addition of locker rooms, renovation of existing classrooms and administrative offices and acquisition of original furnishings and equipment therefore. It is hereby determined and stated that (A) no down payment is required for such purpose pursuant to the provisions of N.J.S.A. 18A:64A-19(2) (b); (B) Union County College has applied for debt service aid from the State of New Jersey pursuant to Chapter 12 of the Laws of 1971 of New Jersey (N.J.S. 18A:64A-22.1 et seq. ("Chapter 12")) for the improvement described in the preceding sentence; (C) if such Chapter 12 State Aid is received, it shall be applied to the payment of principal and interest on bonds or notes issued by the County for such project; and (D) such public building being improved is of "Class B" or equivalent construction as defined in Section 22 of the Local Bond Law (Chapter 2 of Title 40A of the New Jersey Statutes, as amended; the "Local Bond Law").

Section 2. The sum of \$5,635,800 is hereby appropriated to the payment of the cost of making the improvements described in Section 1 hereof (hereinafter referred to as "purpose"). Said appropriation shall be met from the proceeds of the

sale of the bonds authorized by this ordinance. Said improvements shall be made as general improvements and no part of the cost thereof shall be assessed against property specially benefited.

Section 3. It is hereby determined and stated that (1) said purpose is not a current expense of said County, and (2) it is necessary to finance said purpose by the issuance of obligations of said County pursuant to the Local Bond Law and Chapter 12, and (3) the total estimated cost of said purpose is \$5,635,800, and (4) the estimated maximum amount of bonds or notes necessary to be issued for said purpose is \$5,635,800, and (5) the cost of such purpose, as hereinbefore stated, includes the aggregate amount of \$55,800 which is estimated to be necessary to finance the cost of such purpose, including architect's fees, accounting, engineering and inspection costs, legal expenses and other expenses, including interest on such obligations to the extent permitted by Section 20 of the Local Bond Law.

Section 4. To finance said purpose, bonds of said County of an aggregate principal amount not exceeding \$5,635,800 are hereby authorized to be issued pursuant to the Local Bond Law and Chapter 12. Said bonds shall bear interest at a rate per annum as

may be hereafter determined within the limitations prescribed by law. All matters with respect to said bonds not determined by this ordinance shall be determined by resolutions to be hereafter adopted.

Section 5. To finance said purpose, bond anticipation notes of said County of an aggregate principal amount not exceeding \$5,635,800 are hereby authorized to be issued pursuant to the Local Bond Law and Chapter 12 in anticipation of the issuance of said bonds. In the event that bonds are issued pursuant to this ordinance, the aggregate amount of notes hereby authorized to be issued shall be reduced by an amount equal to the principal amount of the bonds so issued. If the aggregate amount of outstanding bonds and notes issued pursuant to this ordinance shall at any time exceed the sum first mentioned in this section, the moneys raised by the issuance of said bonds shall, to not less than the amount of such excess, be applied to the payment of such notes then outstanding.

Section 6. Each bond anticipation note issued pursuant to this ordinance shall be dated on or about the date of its issuance and shall be payable not more than one year from its date, shall bear interest at a rate per annum as may be hereafter determined within the limitations prescribed by law

and may be renewed from time to time pursuant to and within limitations prescribed by the Local Bond Law. Each of said bond anticipation notes shall be signed by the Chairman of the Board of County Commissioners, by the County Manager and by the County Treasurer and shall be under the seal of said County and attested by the Clerk or Deputy Clerk of the Board of County Commissioners. Said officers are hereby authorized to execute said notes in such form as they may adopt in conformity with law. The power to determine any matters with respect to said notes not determined by this ordinance and also the power to sell said notes, is hereby delegated to the County Treasurer who is hereby authorized to sell said notes either at one time or from time to time in the manner provided by law.

Section 7. It is hereby determined and declared that the period of usefulness of said purpose, according to its reasonable life, is a period of fifteen years computed from the date of said bonds.

Section 8. It is hereby determined and stated that the Supplemental Debt Statement required by the Local Bond Law has been duly made and filed in the office of the Clerk of the Board of County Commissioners of said County, and that such statement

so filed shows that the gross debt of said County, as defined in Section 43 of the Local Bond Law, is increased by this ordinance by \$5,635,800 and that the issuance of the bonds and notes authorized by this ordinance will be within all debt limitations prescribed by said Local Bond Law.

Section 9. Any funds received from the State of New Jersey or any of its agencies or any funds received from the United States of America or any of its agencies in aid of such purpose shall be applied to the payment of the cost of such purpose, or, if bond anticipation notes have been issued, to the payment of the bond anticipation notes, and the amount of bonds authorized for such purposes shall be reduced accordingly.

Section 10. The capital budget is hereby amended to conform with the provisions of this ordinance to the extent of any inconsistency therewith and the resolutions promulgated by the Local Finance Board showing full detail of the amended capital budget and capital program as approved by the Director, Division of Local Government Services, is on file with the Clerk of the Board of County Commissioners and is available for public inspection.

Section 11. The County intends to issue the bonds or notes to finance the cost of the improvements described in Section 1 of this bond ordinance. If the County incurs such costs prior to the issuance of the bonds or notes, the County expects to reimburse itself for such expenditures with the proceeds of such bonds or notes in the maximum principal amount of bonds or notes authorized by this bond ordinance.

Section 12. The full faith and credit of the County are hereby pledged to the punctual payment of the principal of and the interest on the obligations authorized by this ordinance. Said obligations shall be direct, unlimited and general obligations of the County, and the County shall levy ad valorem taxes upon all the taxable real property within the County for the payment of the principal of and interest on such bonds and notes, without limitation as to rate or amount.

Section 13. This ordinance shall take effect twenty days after the first publication thereof after final passage.

**FIRST READING STATEMENT**

Commissioner Sergio Granados, Fiscal Subcommittee Chairman, moved Ordinance Number 838-2022 for First Reading and authorized the Clerk of the Board to advertise same in accordance with the law. The Public Hearing and Final Reading will be held on April 28, 2022.

On a motion made by Commissioner Granados and seconded by Commissioner Mirabella roll call showed seven members of the Board voted in the affirmative, with Commissioner Baker and Commissioner Leon absent.

Clerk of the Board Pellettiere confirmed that the public notice for the adoption of Ordinance No. 837-2022 had been published for 6:00 PM, adding that the Board could move on to the adoption of said Ordinance.

Chair Williams turned the meeting over to Fiscal Committee Chair, Commissioner Granados, to say a few words relative to the Budget.

Commissioner Granados addressed the public:

*Good evening.*

*As Chair of the Fiscal Committee, we have been working over the last several weeks conducting reviews of the 2022 Executive Budget, under the advisement of the County Commissioners, County Manager Ed Oatman and all of our Department Heads.*

*Tonight, I am happy to introduce the Union County 2022 Budget at \$513,714,102.12 and the Levy is \$367,295,299, which holds a zero percent tax increase for the third year in a row.*

*Coming off of a pandemic, this budget continues to reflect the essential services and programs needed by our residents, prioritizing their safety and wellbeing. We are also maintaining our credit rating at AAA, which is the highest obtainable, further demonstrating our strong fiscal footing.*

*Some of the essential services funded include: COVID-19 Vaccination and Testing Centers at various locations throughout Union County – including stationary sites, mobile units, pop-up locations, registration and call-in center operations; emergency COVID-19 food distributions, which included 45 distribution events throughout Union County, providing over 4.1 million meals to approximately 35,000 households; assisted over 71 families and 257 individuals residing throughout the County who were impacted by Hurricane Ida by providing emergency housing, meals, and support services; thousands of Senior Citizens throughout the County received a variety of cultural, educational, nutritional, medical, health related and recreational programs.*

*This budget also funds the Chair's "Connecting Our Community," initiatives for 2022, which include technology and infrastructure improvements, mental health and educational programs and upgrades to our parks and recreational facilities.*

*Before I close, I would like to recognize Melinda Zito, one of our team members in Finance, who will be retiring next month. On behalf of the Board of Commissioners, I would like to thank you for your many years of service with Union County and wish you luck as you begin the next chapter of your life*



*Once again, I would like to thank everyone involved for this collaborative effort and their hard work in the budget process.*

*Thank you.*

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## **PUBLIC COMMENT PORTION**

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The meeting was opened to the public for the purpose of commenting on Resolutions being offered for adoption and any governmental issue that a member of the public feels may be of concern to the residents of the county.

Bruce Paterson, of Garwood, thanked the Board for Ordinance 837-2022 which would save the taxpayers approximately \$1.3 million and also thanked them for providing copies of the newly introduced budget for review. Relative to Reso No. 2022-280, he inquired about the language used and how much money was in the CAP bank. Relative to Reso No. 2022-281 & Reso No. 2022-282, he asked if the cited Departments would be exceeding the CAP. Relative to Reso No. 2022-294, Mr. Paterson inquired about the \$1,000,000 cited and asked if these monies would be used to fund design costs. Relative to Reso No. 2022-311, he asked for additional information related to the services being provided. Relative to Reso No. 2022-312, he asked if this item had gone out to bid. Relative to Reso No. 2022-313, Mr. Paterson asked for more information relative to this matter.

Relative to Reso No. 2022-280, Director Taylor advised that the language was prescribed by the state for CAP exclusions, adding that the County would essentially be banking \$1.6 million to be used in subsequent years as needed.

Relative to Reso No. 2022-281 and Reso No. 2022-282, Director Taylor advised that these items were a result of Public Law 2015 Chapter 249 which required that every constitutional entity exist within 2%. She added that due to exigent circumstances, including the COVID-19 pandemic and the consolidation of the Department of Corrections under the Sheriff's Department, along with other administrative challenges, the Departments required a CAP waiver to increase the funding CAP by \$100,000.

Relative to Reso No. 2022-294, Director Graziano advised that this item related to two grants, one in the amount of \$1,000,000 and another in the amount of \$2,000,027, adding that this item would extend the 2016 grant and continue with the 2019 grant of \$2,000,000. He added that these monies would be used towards construction costs.

Relative to Reso No. 2022-311, Administrator DiRado advised that every ten years following the Census, the federal government redraws the congressional lines to ensure that the population within those congressional districts were equally appropriated. She noted that pursuant to state statute, any County with wards was required to undergo the same process and review towns with wards to ensure equal representation amongst the various wards. She added that this Resolution reallocated funds between 2021 and 2022.

Relative to Reso No. 2022-312, Deputy County Manager Wagner advised that this item was competitively bid as required by law and all procurement procedures had been followed as necessary. She added that the Department had received five bid offers which had been reviewed by a team comprised of three County employees and a member of the NJTPA, the funder of the project.

Relative to Reso No. 2022-313, Counsel Bergen advised that this matter related to a dispute with a landlord related to a long-standing lease the County had. He noted that the matter had reached the NJ Supreme Court which found in favor of the County, adding that while some parts of the matter were still being litigated, the major complaint had been dismissed by NJ's Supreme Court.

There were no additional questions or comments from the public.

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#### **RESOLUTIONS FOR ADOPTION**

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The following Resolutions were offered for adoption:

**2022-279 CHAIR REBECCA LYNNE WILLIAMS:** Authorizing the County Manager to affirm the County of Union's compliance with the Governing Body Certification of Compliance with the United States Equal Employment Opportunity Commission's "Enforcement Guidance on the Consideration of Arrest and Conviction Records in Employment Decisions Under Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964" in accordance with State law, when submitting the budget for approval, the County certifies that our hiring practices comply with the EEOC requirements.

On a motion made by Vice Chair Hudak and seconded by Commissioner Palmieri-Mouded roll call showed seven members of the Board voted in the affirmative, with Commissioner Baker and Commissioner Leon absent.

**2022-280 COMMISSIONER SERGIO GRANADOS:** Resolution to exceed the County tax levy limit and to establish a CAP Bank (N.J.S. 40A: 4-45.14).

On a motion made by Vice Chair Hudak and seconded by Commissioner Palmieri-Mouded roll call showed seven members of the Board voted in the affirmative, with Commissioner Baker and Commissioner Leon absent.

**2022-281 COMMISSIONER SERGIO GRANADOS:** Authorizing the Office of the County Prosecutor to exceed the County Entity Budget CAP (P.L., 2015, c.249)

On a motion made by Vice Chair Hudak and seconded by Commissioner Palmieri-Mouded roll call showed seven members of the Board voted in the affirmative, with Commissioner Baker and Commissioner Leon absent.

**2022-282 COMMISSIONER SERGIO GRANADOS:** Authorizing the Office of the Sheriff to exceed the County Entity Budget CAP (P.L., 2015, c.249).

On a motion made by Vice Chair Hudak and seconded by Commissioner Palmieri-Mouded roll call showed seven members of the Board voted in the affirmative, with Commissioner Baker and Commissioner Leon absent.

- 2022-283 COMMISSIONER SERGIO GRANADOS:** Resolution Introducing and Approving the Annual Budget of the County of Union for the Fiscal Year 2022.

On a motion made by Vice Chair Hudak and seconded by Commissioner Palmieri-Mouded roll call showed seven members of the Board voted in the affirmative, with Commissioner Baker and Commissioner Leon absent.

- 2022-284 COMMISSIONER SERGIO GRANADOS:** Amending Resolution 2022-13, a resolution authorizing departmental signatories for Calendar Year 2022.

On a motion made by Vice Chair Hudak and seconded by Commissioner Palmieri-Mouded roll call showed seven members of the Board voted in the affirmative, with Commissioner Baker and Commissioner Leon absent.

- 2022-285 COMMISSIONER SERGIO GRANADOS:** Amending Resolution 2022-10, a resolution authorizing various County Change Funds for Year 2022.

On a motion made by Vice Chair Hudak and seconded by Commissioner Palmieri-Mouded roll call showed seven members of the Board voted in the affirmative, with Commissioner Baker and Commissioner Leon absent.

- 2022-286 COMMISSIONER SERGIO GRANADOS:** Amending Resolution Number 2020-881 for the addition of The Jasani Group LLC, - Days Inn Woodbridge, NJ to the list of Code Blue Shelters and motels for the period of January 1, 2021 through December 31, 2021.

On a motion made by Vice Chair Hudak and seconded by Commissioner Palmieri-Mouded roll call showed seven members of the Board voted in the affirmative, with Commissioner Baker and Commissioner Leon absent.

- 2022-287 COMMISSIONER SERGIO GRANADOS:** Amending Resolution Number 2021-767 for the addition of The Jasani Group LLC, - Days Inn Woodbridge, NJ to the list of Code Blue Shelters and motels to provide shelter during overnight temperatures at 32 degrees Fahrenheit and below with or without precipitation during the period of January 1, 2022 through December 31, 2022. And furthermore, to correct the names of the following vendors: Agape House to Volunteers of America Delaware Valley, Inc and Project Protect (YMCA) to YWCA of Eastern Union County.

On a motion made by Vice Chair Hudak and seconded by Commissioner Palmieri-Mouded roll call showed seven members of the Board voted in the affirmative, with Commissioner Baker and Commissioner Leon absent.

- 2022-288 COMMISSIONER SERGIO GRANADOS:** Amending resolution Number 2021-862, a resolution awarding a contract to the United Way of Greater Union County to provide services under the 2022 Union County Family Success Center (FSC) Program, to de-obligate \$40,000 from the 2022 Union County Family Success Center

(FSC) Program in the new total amount not to exceed \$246,000 for the period of January 1, 2022 through December 31, 2022.

On a motion made by Vice Chair Hudak and seconded by Commissioner Palmieri-Mouded roll call showed seven members of the Board voted in the affirmative, with Commissioner Baker and Commissioner Leon absent.

**2022-289 COMMISSIONER BETTE JANE KOWALSKI:** Authorizing the County Manager to award the proposed contract obtained through advertised public bidding in accordance with the Local Public Contracts Law N.J.S.A. 40A:11-1 et seq., to: P.M. Construction Corp., Hillside, New Jersey for the Rahway River Park Path Resurfacing Project, City of Rahway, County of Union, New Jersey for an amount not to exceed \$122,100.00 (BA# 11-2022; Union County Engineering Project # 2022-001).

On a motion made by Vice Chair Hudak and seconded by Commissioner Palmieri-Mouded roll call showed seven members of the Board voted in the affirmative, with Commissioner Baker and Commissioner Leon absent.

**2022-290 COMMISSIONER BETTE JANE KOWALSKI:** Authorizing the County Manager to utilize the County's only option to extend the contract obtained through advertised public bidding (BA# 9-2020) in accordance with the Local Public Contracts Law, NJSA 40A:11-1 et seq; Parks & Recreation: Space Farms Inc., Wantage, NJ, for the purpose of providing deer carcass removal and disposal for a twenty-four (24) month period of April 8, 2022 through April 7, 2024, in the amount not to exceed \$64,000.00.

On a motion made by Vice Chair Hudak and seconded by Commissioner Palmieri-Mouded roll call showed seven members of the Board voted in the affirmative, with Commissioner Baker and Commissioner Leon absent.

**2022-291 COMMISSIONER BETTE JANE KOWALSKI:** Authorizing the County Manager to amend Resolution 2019-1005, a contract with Professional Farrier Services, Green Brook NJ, to exercise the County's first option to extend the contract for a period of twenty-four (24) months from December 1, 2021 through November 30, 2023 in the amount of not to exceed \$172,000.00 with one final twelve (12) month option to extend remaining.

On a motion made by Vice Chair Hudak and seconded by Commissioner Palmieri-Mouded roll call showed seven members of the Board voted in the affirmative, with Commissioner Baker and Commissioner Leon absent.

**2022-292 COMMISSIONER LOURDES M. LEON:** Concurring with Township of Union Ordinance No. 5708 dated September 28, 2021 reducing the Speed Limit on Burnet Avenue (C.R. 633) from 35 MPH to 25 MPH from the Maplewood line to Morris Avenue.

On a motion made by Vice Chair Hudak and seconded by Commissioner Palmieri-Mouded roll call showed seven members of the Board voted in the affirmative, with Commissioner Baker and Commissioner Leon absent.

**2022-293 COMMISSIONER LOURDES M. LEON:** Authorizing the County Manager to award a contract to Colliers Engineering and Design, Red Bank, NJ to provide Engineering Services for the Union County Dam Maintenance and Repair Project, County of Union, New Jersey for an amount not to exceed \$70,165.00 (Union County Engineering Project Number 2022-002).

On a motion made by Vice Chair Hudak and seconded by Commissioner Palmieri-Mouded roll call showed seven members of the Board voted in the affirmative, with Commissioner Baker and Commissioner Leon absent.

**2022-294 COMMISSIONER LOURDES M. LEON:** Authorizing the County Manager to amend previous agreements for the Irving Street Bridge, City of Rahway, County of Union, New Jersey, to reflect an extension to the deadline of May 21, 2023 for the full replacement of the Irving Street Bridge, City of Rahway, application LBFN 2016-Union County in the amount of \$1,000,000.00 and application LBFN 2019-Union County in the amount of \$2,027,588.00.

On a motion made by Vice Chair Hudak and seconded by Commissioner Palmieri-Mouded roll call showed seven members of the Board voted in the affirmative, with Commissioner Baker and Commissioner Leon absent.

**2022-295 COMMISSIONER LOURDES M. LEON:** Authorizing the County Manager to enter into a contract with Lindenmeyr Munroe, King of Prussia, PA, to provide specialty paper and envelopes for the Bureau of Print Services, coordinated through the Division of Facilities Management, in an amount not to exceed \$31,999.00.

On a motion made by Vice Chair Hudak and seconded by Commissioner Palmieri-Mouded roll call showed seven members of the Board voted in the affirmative, with Commissioner Baker and Commissioner Leon absent.

**2022-296 COMMISSIONER LOURDES M. LEON:** Authorizing the County Manager to award the proposed contract obtained through advertised public bidding in accordance with the Local Public Contracts Law, NJSA 40:A11-1 et seq to: Maffey's Security Group, Elizabeth, NJ for the purpose of providing Locksmith Services & Locking Hardware for the Division of Facilities Management, Division of Public Works, Union County Prosecutor's Office and the Division of Motor Vehicles for twenty- four (24) consecutive months with the provision for one (1) twenty-four (24) month optional extension not to exceed \$217,150.00 (BA#13-2022).

On a motion made by Vice Chair Hudak and seconded by Commissioner Palmieri-Mouded roll call showed seven members of the Board voted in the affirmative, with Commissioner Baker and Commissioner Leon absent.

**2022-297 COMMISSIONER LOURDES M. LEON:** Resolution authorizing the County Manager to enter into a contract with R.J. Sherman and Associates Inc. dba Vermeer North Atlantic Sales and Service, Lumberton, NJ for the purchasing and repairs of various Vermeer Parts for the Vermeer Compost Turner in an amount not to exceed \$44,000.00.

On a motion made by Vice Chair Hudak and seconded by Commissioner Palmieri-Mouded roll call showed seven members of the Board voted in the affirmative, with Commissioner Baker and Commissioner Leon absent.

**2022-298 COMMISSIONER LOURDES M. LEON:** Authorizing aerial dispensing operation county-wide by the Bureau of Mosquito Control with a certified true copy of the Resolution be sent to the Federal Aviation Administration Teterboro District Office, the New Jersey State Mosquito Control Commission and the Union County Division of Public Works, Bureau of Mosquito Control.

On a motion made by Vice Chair Hudak and seconded by Commissioner Palmieri-Mouded roll call showed seven members of the Board voted in the affirmative, with Commissioner Baker and Commissioner Leon absent.

**2022-299 COMMISSIONER LOURDES M. LEON:** Granting permission to the Township of Springfield to close Mountain Avenue from the intersection of Shunpike Road to North Trivett Avenue and Shunpike Road from the intersection of South Springfield Avenue to the intersection of Mountain Avenue on May 30, 2022 between 9:00 am to 12:00 pm for the annual Memorial Day Parade.

On a motion made by Vice Chair Hudak and seconded by Commissioner Palmieri-Mouded roll call showed seven members of the Board voted in the affirmative, with Commissioner Baker and Commissioner Leon absent.

**2022-300 COMMISSIONER LOURDES M. LEON:** Resolution granting permission to the Township of Scotch Plains to close Park Avenue from Westfield Avenue/East 2nd Street to Front Street on May 27, 2022 from 5:30 pm to 9:30 pm for a Memorial Day Event with a rain date of May 29, 2022.

On a motion made by Vice Chair Hudak and seconded by Commissioner Palmieri-Mouded roll call showed seven members of the Board voted in the affirmative, with Commissioner Baker and Commissioner Leon absent.

**2022-301 COMMISSIONER LOURDES M. LEON:** Granting permission to the Town of Westfield's Greater Westfield Area Chamber of Commerce to close Central Avenue from E. Broad Street to North Avenue on May 1, 2022 from 6am to 7pm to conduct the 2022 Spring Fling Street Fair.

On a motion made by Vice Chair Hudak and seconded by Commissioner Palmieri-Mouded roll call showed seven members of the Board voted in the affirmative, with Commissioner Baker and Commissioner Leon absent.

**2022-302 COMMISSIONER LOURDES M. LEON:** Granting permission to the Township of Berkeley Heights to hang a banner across Plainfield Avenue from April 15, 2022 until May 6, 2022 advertising the 2022 Berkeley Heights PAL Golf outing.

On a motion made by Vice Chair Hudak and seconded by Commissioner Palmieri-Mouded roll call showed seven members of the Board voted in the affirmative, with Commissioner Baker and Commissioner Leon absent.

**2022-303 COMMISSIONER LOURDES M. LEON:** Authorizing the County Manager to award a contract to SAGE Eldercare, Inc., Summit, NJ, to provide information and assistance to seniors (age 60 years and older and/or their caregivers) regarding health insurance benefits for the period of April 1, 2022 through March 31, 2023 which represents year two of a three-year contract, in the amount not to exceed \$34,000.00

On a motion made by Vice Chair Hudak and seconded by Commissioner Palmieri-Mouded roll call showed seven members of the Board voted in the affirmative, with Commissioner Baker and Commissioner Leon absent.

**2022-304 COMMISSIONER KIMBERLY PALMIERI-MOUEDED:** Authorizing the County of Union, through the Union County Police Department to apply, accept, and expend the New Jersey Department of Law and Public Safety Office of the Attorney General SFY21 Body-Worn Camera Grant Program, award number 21-BWC-442 in the amount of \$152,850.00, for grant period January 1, 2021 through December 31, 2025.

On a motion made by Vice Chair Hudak and seconded by Commissioner Palmieri-Mouded roll call showed seven members of the Board voted in the affirmative, with Commissioner Baker and Commissioner Leon absent.

**2022-305 COMMISSIONER KIMBERLY PALMIERI-MOUEDED:** Resolution appointing Kimberly Palmieri-Mouded (Commissioner); Amy Wagner (Deputy County Manager); Kelly Martins (Public Information Officer); Andrea Alvare (Health Officer); Debbie-Ann Anderson (Human Services Director); Ronald Zuber (Parks & Recreation Director); Michael Scanio (County Fire Coordinator); Michael Tharaldsen (Emergency Services Captain); and Kristen Von St Paul to the Emergency Management Council for a term ending December 31, 2022; re-appointing the following: Edward T. Oatman (County Manager); Andrew Moran (Public Safety Director/County Coordinator); Joseph Graziano (Public Works Director); Christopher Scaturo (Emergency Services Director); Gareth Williams (Chief PST/EMS Coordinator); and Chris Debbie (County Police Chief) for terms ending December 31, 2022.

On a motion made by Vice Chair Hudak and seconded by Commissioner Palmieri-Mouded roll call showed seven members of the Board voted in the affirmative, with Commissioner Baker and Commissioner Leon absent.

**2022-306 CHAIR REBECCA LYNNE WILLIAMS:** Amending Resolution 2021-989, a contract with Liberty Transportation and Storage Company, Inc., dba The Liberty Group, Berkeley Heights, New Jersey to add an account number only.

On a motion made by Vice Chair Hudak and seconded by Commissioner Palmieri-Mouded roll call showed seven members of the Board voted in the affirmative, with Commissioner Baker and Commissioner Leon absent.

**2022-307 CHAIR REBECCA LYNNE WILLIAMS:** Amending Resolution 2021-988, a contract with University Van Lines, Rahway, New Jersey to add an account number only.

On a motion made by Vice Chair Hudak and seconded by Commissioner Palmieri-Mouded roll call showed seven members of the Board voted in the affirmative, with Commissioner Baker and Commissioner Leon absent.

**2022-308 CHAIR REBECCA LYNNE WILLIAMS:** Amending Resolution 2021-991, a contract with Royal Printing Services, West New York, New Jersey for the purpose of increasing the contract by the amount of \$5,000.00 for Early Voting printing expenses for a total contract amount of not to exceed \$135,000 and adding an account number.

On a motion made by Vice Chair Hudak and seconded by Commissioner Palmieri-Mouded roll call showed seven members of the Board voted in the affirmative, with Commissioner Baker and Commissioner Leon absent.

**2022-309 CHAIR REBECCA LYNNE WILLIAMS:** Amending Resolution 2021-993, a contract with Election Systems & Software, Omaha, Nebraska for election consumables to add an account number only.

On a motion made by Vice Chair Hudak and seconded by Commissioner Palmieri-Mouded roll call showed seven members of the Board voted in the affirmative, with Commissioner Baker and Commissioner Leon absent.

**2022-310 CHAIR REBECCA LYNNE WILLIAMS:** Amending Resolution 2021-994, a contract with Election Systems & Software, Omaha, Nebraska, to add an account number only.

On a motion made by Vice Chair Hudak and seconded by Commissioner Palmieri-Mouded roll call showed seven members of the Board voted in the affirmative, with Commissioner Baker and Commissioner Leon absent.

**2022-311 CHAIR REBECCA LYNNE WILLIAMS:** Amending Resolution 2021-990, a contract award to Remington and Vernick Engineers, Secaucus, New Jersey to perform rewarding services for the Union County Board of Elections, to reflect a change of account numbers.

On a motion made by Vice Chair Hudak and seconded by Commissioner Palmieri-Mouded roll call showed seven members of the Board voted in the affirmative, with Commissioner Baker and Commissioner Leon absent.

**2022-312 CHAIR REBECCA LYNNE WILLIAMS:** Authorizing the County Manager to enter into a contract with French & Parrello Associates, Wall, NJ to conduct the "Union County Electric Vehicles Infrastructure Study" for the period of April 11, 2022 to June 30, 2023, in an amount not to exceed \$176,000.00.

On a motion made by Vice Chair Hudak and seconded by Commissioner Palmieri-Mouded roll call showed seven members of the Board voted in the affirmative, with Commissioner Baker and Commissioner Leon absent.

**2022-313 CHAIR REBECCA LYNNE WILLIAMS:** Amending Resolution Number 2021-755, to increase the appropriation to DeCotiis Fitzpatrick, Cole & Giblin LLP of Paramus,



NJ for Special Legal Counsel in the matter entitled H.C. Equities v. UC, et als, in an amount not to exceed \$40,000 for a new total contract amount not to exceed \$240,000.00.

On a motion made by Vice Chair Hudak and seconded by Commissioner Palmieri-Mouded roll call showed seven members of the Board voted in the affirmative, with Commissioner Baker and Commissioner Leon absent.

#### **COMMISSIONER SPONSORED RESOLUTIONS**

- 2022-314 COMMISSIONER JAMES BAKER JR & THE ENTIRE BOARD:** Recognizing April as Alcohol Awareness month in an effort to raise awareness and call attention to the dangers about Alcoholism; and further recognizing the Office on Behavioral Health and Substance Abuse's efforts in calling attention to the dangers and facts about Alcoholism, and sharing resources to find support and treatment.

On a motion made by Vice Chair Hudak and seconded by Commissioner Palmieri-Mouded roll call showed seven members of the Board voted in the affirmative, with Commissioner Baker and Commissioner Leon absent.

- 2022-315 COMMISSIONER ANGELA R. GARRETSON & THE ENTIRE BOARD:** Resolution offering this Board's deepest sympathies to the family of Elnardo Webster Sr, former Roselle Superintendent, during their time of sorrow.

On a motion made by Vice Chair Hudak and seconded by Commissioner Palmieri-Mouded roll call showed seven members of the Board voted in the affirmative, with Commissioner Baker and Commissioner Leon absent.

- 2022-316 COMMISSIONER SERGIO GRANADOS & THE ENTIRE BOARD:** Recognizing April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month (SAAM) in order to draw attention to the issue of sexual violence, to increase the ability of all community members to work together to change social norms that either promote or condone it, and communicate support for survivors.

On a motion made by Vice Chair Hudak and seconded by Commissioner Palmieri-Mouded roll call showed seven members of the Board voted in the affirmative, with Commissioner Baker and Commissioner Leon absent.

- 2022-317 COMMISSIONER BETTE JANE KOWALSKI & THE ENTIRE BOARD:** Resolution recognizing the April, 2021 as National Poetry Month throughout Union County.

On a motion made by Vice Chair Hudak and seconded by Commissioner Palmieri-Mouded roll call showed seven members of the Board voted in the affirmative, with Commissioner Baker and Commissioner Leon absent.

- 2022-318 COMMISSIONER ALEXANDER MIRABELLA & THE ENTIRE BOARD:** Resolution recognizing the NJ Sharing Network as they host their Annual 5K Celebration of Life on June 5th, 2022 in New Providence.

On a motion made by Vice Chair Hudak and seconded by Commissioner Palmieri-Mouded roll call showed seven members of the Board voted in the affirmative, with Commissioner Baker and Commissioner Leon absent.

- 2022-319 COMMISSIONER ALEXANDER MIRABELLA & THE ENTIRE BOARD:** Resolution recognizing the month of April, 2020 as National Donate Life Month in Union County; and further encouraging Union County residents to register as organ, eye and tissue donors and to honor those that have saved lives through the gift of donation.

On a motion made by Vice Chair Hudak and seconded by Commissioner Palmieri-Mouded roll call showed seven members of the Board voted in the affirmative, with Commissioner Baker and Commissioner Leon absent.

- 2022-320 COMMISSIONER KIMBERLY PALMIERI-MOUEDED, COMMISSIONER SERGIO GRANADOS & THE ENTIRE BOARD:** Resolution recognizing the month of April as Autism Acceptance Month throughout Union County in an effort to help raise awareness and acceptance for those with autism; and to further invite Union County residents to participate in the numerous inclusive events and programming the Board is hosting during Autism Acceptance Month.

On a motion made by Vice Chair Hudak and seconded by Commissioner Palmieri-Mouded roll call showed seven members of the Board voted in the affirmative, with Commissioner Baker and Commissioner Leon absent.

- 2022-321 CHAIR REBECCA LYNNE WILLIAMS & THE ENTIRE BOARD:** Resolution offering this Board's condolences to Commissioner Lourdes Leon, along to her family and friends, on the passing of her father Jose Leon, during their time of sorrow.

On a motion made by Vice Chair Hudak and seconded by Commissioner Palmieri-Mouded roll call showed seven members of the Board voted in the affirmative, with Commissioner Baker and Commissioner Leon absent.

Vice Chair Hudak left the meeting.

#### **COMMISSIONER REPORTS AND COMMENTS**

Commissioner Garretson noted an article entitled "In NJ, Freeholder Name is in the Past" in the current issue of County News, published by the National Association of Counties, adding that all the Members of the Board were also Members of NJAC. She noted the great work NJ was doing on behalf of all County Boards, recognizing Union County for recently transitioning away from the term Freeholder. On another note, she spoke relative to the confirmation of Ketanji Brown Jackson as associate justice of the U.S. Supreme Court, noting it as a historic moment. She advised that on Monday, she was honored to represent the Board alongside Senator Menendez and Reverend Dr. Christopher Michael Jones and other local representatives in Hillside to celebrate the nomination of Judge Jackson, the first African American female associate justice. She noted that it was a proud and inspirational moment. To close, she offered her condolences to Commissioner Lourdes Leon on the passing of her father as well as the family of Elnardo Webster Sr.

Commissioner Granados recognized April 2022 as the 21<sup>st</sup> anniversary of Sexual Assault Awareness Month, noting that the month was first recognized in 2001 by the National Sexual Violence Resource Center. He added that the Board has continued to serve as an advocate for sexual assault awareness and prevention for approximately 40 years, noting the opening of the Rape Crisis Center in 1984. He spoke relative to the many obstacles faced by victims of sexual assault, noting that Union County was committed to providing the necessary resources to help these individuals overcome their respective obstacles and serve as advocates for others. He advised that on April 27<sup>th</sup>, Union County would be observing Denim Day and encouraged everyone to wear denim as a means to raise awareness about sexual assault and show support for survivors of sexual violence.

Commissioner Palmieri-Mouded added that the month of April was also Autism Acceptance Month, noting that Union County had been one of the first counties in New Jersey to open an Office for Persons with Disabilities and Special Needs. She added that the County continued to host several inclusive programs for children and adults with autism throughout the year, noting several upcoming events including "Day Out with the Red Bulls" on Saturday, April 9<sup>th</sup>. She also advised that on April 24<sup>th</sup>, the Union County Sensory Friendly Theater would be featuring a live performance of Pete the Cat at the Union County Performing Arts Center in Rahway. She encouraged interested residents to visit the County website for additional information relative to these and other events. To close she offered her condolences to Commissioner colleague Lourdes Leon on the passing of her father, Jose Leon. She also wished Melinda Zito well on her retirement.

Commissioner Kowalski offered her condolences to Commissioner Leon and to the family of Elnardo Webster Sr. She also congratulated Melinda Zito on her retirement and thanked her for her many years of service as an employee of Union County. On another note, she spoke relative to certain inappropriate comments made by Clark Mayor Sal Bonaccorso, noting that the Board had released a statement condemning these comments. She noted Governor Murphy's call for Mayor Bonaccorso to resign, adding that she too believed the Mayor should resign, especially since the comments were allegedly made repeatedly and lots of money had been spent to keep this matter private and out of the public eye. She added that the attitudes expressed by the Mayor's comments had no place in government anywhere and once again called for him to step down. Commissioner Kowalski also spoke relative to an annual educational tree-planting event at William's Nursery she attended alongside Commissioners Leon and Palmieri-Mouded to commemorate Arbor Day and Earth Month. She noted that they had been joined by a group of young students that took a sapling back to their school to plant and care for, adding that it was nice to see environmental awareness spreading throughout Union County. She spoke relative to other Earth Month activities, including the Falcon Cam atop the Union County Courthouse as well as various poetry events taking place throughout the County. To close, she noted that today was Take Action for Libraries Day, adding that libraries proved to be an essential resource in keeping people connected during the COVID-19 pandemic. She advised that the American Library Association urged people to contact their local legislators and advise on the importance of libraries and the need for increased funding.

Commissioner Mirabella encouraged residents to remain vigilant relative to COVID-19, noting that the risk still persisted despite life returning to some semblance of normalcy. He noted that the County continued to work alongside Kean University and other

community partners to provide residents with the resources needed to keep them safe. He added that in accordance with CDC guidelines, residents 50 years of age and older could now receive a second booster of their choice. He also noted an upcoming drive-up emergency food distribution drive taking place on Saturday, April 9<sup>th</sup> at Kean University, adding that a walk-up food distribution drive was also scheduled for Saturday, April 30<sup>th</sup> at 600 Pearl Street in Elizabeth. He also advised that Chair Williams had done a commercial on behalf of the Board advising residents about the Emergency Rental Assistance Program being offered through the County, adding that qualifying renters and landlords still had time to apply. Commissioner Mirabella also spoke relative to the return of congregated meal programs for senior centers, noting that the program had been disrupted for two years due to the COVID-19 pandemic. He added that this program gave seniors the opportunity to get a nutritious meal while engaging with friends and neighbors. On another note, he offered his condolences to Commissioner Lourdes Leon on the passing of her father, adding that he hoped her and her family found some peace soon. He also wished Melinda Zito well on her retirement. Commissioner Mirabella also noted the earlier Board of School Estimates meeting that had taken place, adding that he was proud of the continued contributions made by the Board to the success of those schools. To close, he recognized and thanked County Manager Oatman, Deputy County Manager Wagner, Fiscal Chair Commissioner Granados, and Finance Director Taylor as well as all the other Directors that had worked so diligently to achieve a zero impact budget for the third year in a row while also maintaining the County's Triple A bond rating, adding that this bond rating should not be underestimated or undervalued as it was incredibly difficult to obtain and maintain.

County Manager Oatman congratulated Melinda Zito on her retirement. He wished her well on her future endeavors and thanked her for all the help she had given him over the last four years in his role as County Manager.

Chair Williams noted her recent visit to the Department of Social Services, alongside a few of her Commissioner colleagues, to see the new mobile interview pods that had been secured using federal CARES ACT funding, adding that Union County had become the first County in the State to offer this innovative resource. She advised that these pods allowed the Department of Social Services to conduct interviews for public assistance resources via video-conferencing in an isolated, sound-proof, and multi-functional enclosure. She added that this resource would allow the County to continue providing these services safely even during a pandemic. She advised that the County had approximately twenty interview pods, adding that they were also handicap accessible. She added that the County would also be working with an ADA-compliant hearing-loop induction company to install infrared hearing links to transmit assistive listening signals within the pods. She expressed the County's commitment to innovation and making sure they have the necessary resources to reach as many residents as possible. Chair Williams thanked Director Anderson and her staff for their efforts in providing clients with a modernized approach to services. On another note, she echoed the sentiments of Commissioner Garretson relative to the appointment of Supreme Court Judge Jackson, adding that this was a monumental moment many years in the making. She also spoke relative to the inappropriate comments made by Clark Mayor Bonaccorso and other public safety officials in Clark, adding that the Board stood with the people of Clark that were calling for the immediate resignation of the individuals involved. She added that the Board was unified on this matter and remained committed to acting as necessary in light

of these developments. To close, she congratulated Melinda Zito on her retirement and offered her condolences to colleague, Commissioner Lourdes Leon on the passing of her father.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Williams asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. On a motion made by Commissioner Palmieri-Mouded and seconded by Commissioner Granados, roll call showed seven members of the Board voted in the affirmative; with Vice Chair Hudak, Commissioner Baker and Commissioner Leon absent

The meeting was adjourned at 6:55 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 of Union's 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.

All meetings are to be held in the Commissioner Meeting Room within the Administration Building, 6<sup>th</sup> floor located at 10 Elizabethtown Plaza, Elizabeth New Jersey, 07207. Due to the Covid-19 coronavirus concerns, County Commissioner meetings may be held remotely via Zoom webinar under the procedures conducted, as published, in 2021. If said procedures are deemed necessary, the Clerk of the Board will revise said Public Notice according to law.

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