



UNION COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

**THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 2023
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Granados presided over the meeting and called the meeting to order at 6:36 P.M.

ROLL CALL

Roll call showed Chairman Sergio Granados, Vice-Chairwoman Kimberly Palmieri-Mouded, Commissioner James E. Baker, Jr., Commissioner Joseph C. Bodek, Commissioner Angela R. Garretson, Commissioner Bette Jane Kowalski, Commissioner Lourdes M. Leon, Commissioner Alexander Mirabella, and Commissioner 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.

APPROVAL OF COMMUNICATIONS

Note and File

Chairman Granados called for a motion to approve the Communications. On a motion made by Commissioner Mirabella and seconded by Commissioner Garretson, roll call showed nine members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Thursday, July 13, 2023 – Agenda Setting Session
2. Thursday, July 13, 2023 – Regular Meeting

Chairman Granados called for a motion to approve the Communications. On a motion made by Commissioner Bodek and seconded by Commissioner Leon, roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative, with Commissioner Kowalski abstaining.

ORDINANCE FOR ADOPTION

Clerk of the Board Pellettiere read the Ordinance by title.

844-2023 BOND ORDINANCE TO AUTHORIZE THE MAKING OF VARIOUS PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS AND THE ACQUISITION OF NEW ADDITIONAL OR REPLACEMENT EQUIPMENT AND MACHINERY, NEW ADDITIONAL FURNISHINGS, NEW COMMUNICATION AND SIGNAL SYSTEMS EQUIPMENT, NEW INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT AND NEW AUTOMOTIVE VEHICLES, INCLUDING ORIGINAL APPARATUS AND EQUIPMENT, IN, BY AND FOR THE COUNTY OF UNION, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, TO APPROPRIATE THE SUM OF \$57,586,882 TO PAY THE COST THEREOF, TO APPROPRIATE STATE GRANTS, TO MAKE A DOWN PAYMENT, TO AUTHORIZE THE ISSUANCE OF \$46,196,196 OF BONDS TO FINANCE SUCH APPROPRIATION AND TO PROVIDE FOR THE ISSUANCE OF \$46,196,196 OF BOND ANTICIPATION NOTES IN ANTICIPATION OF THE ISSUANCE OF SUCH BONDS.

PUBLIC COMMENT PORTION

The meeting was opened for the purpose of commenting on Ordinance Number 844-2023 only.

Maria Echeverria, of Elizabeth, requested a breakdown of the funding provided in the Ordinance.

Bruce Paterson, of Garwood, inquired about the \$350,000 rolling stage and asked if the existing stage was being retired. He asked if any bonds were maturing to offset the \$46 million cost. He asked what the total debt of the County of Union.

County Manager Oatman advised that the current stage is old and outdated and that this new stage would replace the current stage; allowing for the current stage to be used as needed.

Director Taylor advised the multipurpose bond ordinance supports capital projects for all of the County's departments, as well as the Vocational-Technical School and County College. She noted that while the County was authorizing \$46 million in debt, it should be noted that the County is also paying down \$52.2 million in principal.

County Manager Oatman asked Director Taylor how many years in a row the County has paid down more than authorize new debt.

Director Taylor advised (this ordinance would mark) six years in a row.

Director Taylor advised that the total debt as per the Supplemental Debt Statement, as far as the equalized assessed value, the County is at .631% of our total equalized assessed value; noting that the County is well below the allowable 2%. Statutory Debt Limit.

FINAL READING STATEMENT

Vice-Chairwoman Kimberly Palmieri-Mouded, Fiscal Subcommittee Chairwoman, moved Ordinance Number 844-2023 for Final Reading and authorize the Clerk of the Board to advertise same in accordance with the law.

On a motion made by Vice-Chairwoman Palmieri-Mouded and seconded by Commissioner Mirabella, roll call showed nine members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

ORDINANCE FOR ADOPTION

Clerk of the Board Pellettiere read the Ordinance by title.

845-2023 BOND ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE FOLLOWING BOND ORDINANCES PREVIOUSLY ADOPTED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF THE COUNTY OF UNION, STATE OF NEW JERSEY: (1) BOND ORDINANCE NO. 687-2009 ADOPTED ON JULY 30, 2009, AS PREVIOUSLY AMENDED BY THE FOLLOWING FIVE ORDINANCES: BOND ORDINANCE NO. 699-2010 ADOPTED ON FEBRUARY 11, 2010; BOND ORDINANCE NO. 703-2010 ADOPTED ON MAY 13, 2010; BOND ORDINANCE NO. 714-2010 ADOPTED ON DECEMBER 8, 2010; BOND ORDINANCE NO. 741-2012 ADOPTED ON SEPTEMBER 13, 2012; AND BOND ORDINANCE NO. 760-2014 ADOPTED ON OCTOBER 9, 2014 (2) BOND ORDINANCE NO. 723-2011 ADOPTED ON AUGUST 25, 2011, AS PREVIOUSLY AMENDED BY BOND ORDINANCE NO. 741-2012 ADOPTED ON SEPTEMBER 13, 2012 AND BOND ORDINANCE NO. 760-2014 ADOPTED ON OCTOBER 9, 2014; (3) BOND ORDINANCE NO. 740-2012 ADOPTED ON SEPTEMBER 13, 2012, AS PREVIOUSLY AMENDED BY BOND ORDINANCE NO. 760-2014 ADOPTED ON OCTOBER 9, 2014 AND BOND ORDINANCE NO. 786-2017 ADOPTED ON AUGUST 17, 2017; (4) BOND ORDINANCE NO. 787-2017 ADOPTED ON AUGUST 17, 2017, AS PREVIOUSLY AMENDED BY BOND ORDINANCE NO. 805-2019 ADOPTED ON FEBRUARY 14, 2019; (5) BOND ORDINANCE NO. 795-2018 ADOPTED ON SEPTEMBER 13, 2018; (6) BOND ORDINANCE NO. 808-2019 ADOPTED ON JULY 25, 2019, AS PREVIOUSLY AMENDED BY BOND ORDINANCE NO. 825-2021 ADOPTED ON MARCH 25, 2021; (7) BOND ORDINANCE NO. 820-2020 ADOPTED ON NOVEMBER 5, 2020; (8) BOND ORDINANCE NO. 834-2021 ADOPTED ON DECEMBER 2, 2021; AND (9) BOND ORDINANCE NO. 839-2022 ADOPTED ON OCTOBER 6, 2022.

PUBLIC COMMENT PORTION

The meeting was opened for the purpose of commenting on Ordinance Number 845-2023 only.

Bruce Paterson, of Garwood, inquired as to why Bond Ordinance Number 760-2014 is listed twice within the Ordinance up for adoption.

Maria Echeverria, of Elizabeth, asked the Board to breakdown each ordinance to understand

County Manager Oatman clarified that the County is repurposing old bonds for new projects, rather going out to bond for additional money and increasing the County's debt.

Director Taylor clarified that the County is repurposing nine (9) ordinances and as a result of this action, the Board is repurposing \$7.9 million because those previously approved projects have been concluded; noting that the County will repurpose these already approved funding instead of incurring new debt.

Director Taylor advised that Ordinances have several sections, and as a result a single ordinance may be listed more than once for repurposing multiple sections for specific projects.

FINAL READING STATEMENT

Vice-Chairwoman Kimberly Palmieri-Mouded, Fiscal Subcommittee Chairwoman, moved Ordinance Number 845-2023 for Final Reading and authorize the Clerk of the Board to advertise same in accordance with the law.

On a motion made by Vice-Chairwoman Palmieri-Mouded and seconded by Commissioner Kowalski, roll call showed nine members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

PUBLIC COMMENT PORTION

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

Maria Echeverria, of Elizabeth, made comments relative to Commissioners' comments concerning Bruce Paterson at a previous meeting; adding that she supports his comments and efforts.

She made comments relative to her issues in reapplying for her Medicaid; noting her issues completing the forms online which resulted in her having to go to the welfare offices in Elizabeth. She commented on the need to change the bathroom in that facility. She advised that the online process should be more user friendly. She also made comments relative to the concerns she has with the potential of identity theft.

Bruce Paterson, of Garwood, 773. He inquired about the unit prices of the contract. 776 asked why is the contract being increased by 60%. 782-787 he asked total \$1.4M and newspaper Scutari is ging another 57M and will this funds be reflected like these. Votech Schools receiving \$25M .. they didn't know what it was for. Should be repuposed. 808 congratulating Joe Graziano and offered his gratitude for his leadership and wished him good luck.

Mr. Paterson apologized to Commissioner Granados for his previous comments regarding Commissioner Granados' family on payroll, and proceeded to make further comments about Commissioner Mirabella.

County Manager Oatman advised that Resolution 676-2023 is a co-op and publically bid.

Engineer Matias advised that Resolution 773-2023 provided for an hourly rate for both a truck and a truck driver; noting that the contract has been in place for two years and that this was an extension.

Al Walcoff, of Roselle, noted his enjoyment of the County's Latin Concert at Warinanco Park and encouraged the Board to continue producing the concert.

Geleen Donovan, the Executive Director of Family Promise, thanked the Board and the Department of Human Services for supporting their Shelter Diversion Program to divert individuals from homeless; noting that they have been able to assist 200 families. She spoke on a number of projects underway to assist other families.

RESOLUTIONS FOR ADOPTION

The following Resolutions were offered for adoption:

2023-769 COMMISSIONER JAMES BAKER JR: Authorizing the County Manager to enter into a contract with NMS Laboratories, Horsham, PA, for post-mortem toxicology lab services for basic and expanded testing services, for a contract term of October 1, 2023 through September 30, 2025, in an amount not to exceed \$150,000.00 with the potential option to extend the contract for one twenty-four (24) month period.

On a motion made by Commissioner Mirabella and seconded by Commissioner Williams, roll call showed nine members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

2023-770 COMMISSIONER JAMES BAKER JR: Authorizing the County Manager to enter into a Memorandum of Agreement for Tuberculosis Services with the New Jersey Medical School Global Tuberculosis Institute at Rutgers Biomedical and Health Sciences for the period of January 1, 2023 through December 31, 2023 in an amount not to exceed \$103,683.28.

On a motion made by Commissioner Mirabella and seconded by Commissioner Williams, roll call showed nine members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

2023-771 COMMISSIONER BETTE JANE KOWALSKI: Authorizing the County Manager to enter into an agreement, through NJ State Contract, with Ciocca Ford of Flemington for the purchase of a truck in the amount not to exceed \$53,392.00.

On a motion made by Commissioner Mirabella and seconded by Commissioner Williams, roll call showed nine members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

2023-772 COMMISSIONER BETTE JANE KOWALSKI: Authorizing the County Manager to award a contract, obtained through advertising public bidding in accordance with N.J.S.A. 40A:11-1 et seq. to Chemical Equipment Labs of DE, Inc., Newton Square, PA to provide Rock Salt for a twelve (12) month period commencing upon execution of the contract in an amount not to exceed \$780,000.

On a motion made by Commissioner Mirabella and seconded by Commissioner Williams, roll call showed nine members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

2023-773 COMMISSIONER BETTE JANE KOWALSKI: Authorizing the County Manager to exercise the County's only option to extend the contract obtained through advertised public bidding in accordance with the Local Public Contracts Laws, NJSA 40A:11-1 et seq. with Sage Landscape Contractors, Inc., Watchung, NJ, for the provision of Snow Removal Services for the additional period of twenty-four (24) months in an amount not to exceed \$189,600.00.

On a motion made by Commissioner Mirabella and seconded by Commissioner Williams, roll call showed nine members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

2023-774 COMMISSIONER BETTE JANE KOWALSKI: Granting permission to the Township of Springfield to hang a banner on Meisel Avenue and Mountain Avenue from September 11, 2023 to October 17, 2023 and to close Mountain Avenue between Morris Avenue and Caldwell Place on Sunday, October 15, 2023 from 6 am until 7 pm for the Fall Festival and Car Show.

On a motion made by Commissioner Mirabella and seconded by Commissioner Williams, roll call showed nine members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

2023-775 COMMISSIONER BETTE JANE KOWALSKI: Granting permission to the Township of Springfield to hang banners on Mountain Avenue and South Springfield Avenue at the intersection of Evergreen Avenue from September 11, 2023 to October 17, 2023 and to close South Springfield Avenue on October 10, 11, 12, and 13, 2023 from 6 pm to 10 pm and on October 14, 2023 from 2 pm to 6 pm for the Saint James Church Festival.

On a motion made by Commissioner Mirabella and seconded by Commissioner Williams, roll call showed nine members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

2023-776 COMMISSIONER LOURDES M. LEON: Amending Resolution 2023-50, a contract with Ben Shaffer Recreation Inc., under the Educational Services Commission of NJ Coop Contract# 20/21-02, for playground equipment, to increase the allocation amount in an additional amount not to exceed \$243,000.00 for a total contract amount not to exceed \$643,000.00.

On a motion made by Commissioner Mirabella and seconded by Commissioner Williams, roll call showed nine members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

2023-777 COMMISSIONER LOURDES M. LEON: Authorizing the County Manager to exercise the only option to extend the open ended contract obtained through advertised public bidding in accordance with the Local Public Contracts Law, NJSA 40A:11-1

et seq: Department of Parks and Recreation: Johnny on the Spot LLC, Old Bridge, NJ for the purpose of providing Portable Toilet Rental & Septic Pumping Services for an additional period of twenty-four (24) months commencing October 15, 2023 through October 14, 2025, in the amount of not to exceed \$155,000.00. (BA# 10-2022)

On a motion made by Commissioner Mirabella and seconded by Commissioner Williams, roll call showed nine members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

2023-778 COMMISSIONER LOURDES M. LEON: Authorizing the County Manager to Execute an Amendment to an existing Green Acres grant for the County of Union's Open Space and Recreation Plan to accept an additional \$3,000,000.00 in funding.

On a motion made by Commissioner Mirabella and seconded by Commissioner Williams, roll call showed nine members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

2023-779 COMMISSIONER REBECCA LYNNE WILLIAMS: Authorizing the County Manager to execute a License Agreement with Summit Medical Group Foundation to hold a Physical Fitness Challenge at the Mt. Carmel Society property located at 56 River Road, Berkeley Heights, New Jersey, and the County's adjacent parkland on Sunday, October 15, 2023 with a rain date of Saturday, October 14, 2023.

On a motion made by Commissioner Mirabella and seconded by Commissioner Williams, roll call showed nine members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

2023-780 COMMISSIONER REBECCA LYNNE WILLIAMS: Authorizing the County Manager to enter into a license agreement with the Union County Celtic Festival to hold a Celtic Festival at Oak Ridge Park on Saturday, September 9, 2023.

On a motion made by Commissioner Mirabella and seconded by Commissioner Williams, roll call showed nine members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

2023-781 VICE CHAIRWOMAN KIMBERLY PALMIERI-MOUEDED: Authorizing Governing Body Certification of the 2022 Audit.

On a motion made by Commissioner Mirabella and seconded by Commissioner Williams, roll call showed nine members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

2023-782 VICE CHAIRWOMAN KIMBERLY PALMIERI-MOUEDED: Modifying the 2023 Union County adopted budget in the amount of \$170,035.00 as a result of notification received from the State of New Jersey, Department of Law and Public Safety for a program entitled: VOCA - Sexual Assault Response Team/Forensic Nurse Examiner (SANE) Grant.

On a motion made by Commissioner Mirabella and seconded by Commissioner Williams, roll call showed nine members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

2023-783 VICE CHAIRWOMAN KIMBERLY PALMIERI-MOUEDED: Modifying the 2023 Union County adopted budget in the amount of \$661,000.00 as a result of notification received from the United States Department of Health and Human Services for a

program entitled: Congressional Directives Grant - Mental Health and Recovery Support Services.

On a motion made by Commissioner Mirabella and seconded by Commissioner Williams, roll call showed nine members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

2023-784 VICE CHAIRWOMAN KIMBERLY PALMIERI-MOUEDED: Modifying the 2023 Union County adopted budget in the amount of \$20,000.00 as a result of notification received from the State of New Jersey, Department of Community Affairs for a program entitled: Data-Driven Decision Making: Organizational Enhancement Program Grant.

On a motion made by Commissioner Mirabella and seconded by Commissioner Williams, roll call showed nine members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

2023-785 VICE CHAIRWOMAN KIMBERLY PALMIERI-MOUEDED: Modifying the 2023 Union County adopted budget in the amount of \$9,563.00 as a result of notification received from the State of New Jersey, Department of Community Affairs for a program entitled: Community Service Block Grant (CSBG).

On a motion made by Commissioner Mirabella and seconded by Commissioner Williams, roll call showed nine members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

2023-786 VICE CHAIRWOMAN KIMBERLY PALMIERI-MOUEDED: Modifying the 2023 Union County adopted budget in the amount of \$353,244.00 as a result of notification received from the State of New Jersey, Department of Human Services for a program entitled: Area Plan Contract.

On a motion made by Commissioner Mirabella and seconded by Commissioner Williams, roll call showed nine members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

2023-787 VICE CHAIRWOMAN KIMBERLY PALMIERI-MOUEDED: Modifying the 2023 Union County adopted budget in the amount of \$200,000.00 as a result of notification received from the State of New Jersey, Department of Human Services for a program entitled: Alcohol/Drug Abuse Grant - Recovery Mobile Van Program - ARPA.

On a motion made by Commissioner Mirabella and seconded by Commissioner Williams, roll call showed nine members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

2023-788 VICE CHAIRWOMAN KIMBERLY PALMIERI-MOUEDED, & THE ENTIRE BOARD: Sponsoring the City of Plainfield's House Music Festival For A Cause being held on September 16, 2023 in the amount of not to exceed \$1,500.00.

On a motion made by Commissioner Mirabella and seconded by Commissioner Williams, roll call showed nine members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

2023-789 VICE CHAIRWOMAN KIMBERLY PALMIERI-MOUEDED, & THE ENTIRE BOARD: Sponsoring the Township of Westfield's AddamsFest: Westfield Celebrates Charles Addams being held on October 15, 2023 in the amount not to exceed \$2,000.00.

On a motion made by Commissioner Mirabella and seconded by Commissioner Williams, roll call showed nine members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

2023-790 VICE CHAIRWOMAN KIMBERLY PALMIERI-MOUEDED, & THE ENTIRE BOARD: Sponsoring the Borough of Roselle Park's Annual Festival of India being held on October 7, 2023 in the amount not to exceed \$500.00.

On a motion made by Commissioner Mirabella and seconded by Commissioner Williams, roll call showed nine members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

2023-791 CHAIRMAN SERGIO GRANADOS: Amending Resolution 2022-1032, a contract with We Are One New Jersey Inc., Trenton, NJ, to authorize reallocated funds of \$21,000.00 to be used to install updated security system at the Union County Center in the amount of \$223,000.00, without any changes to the total contract amount of not to exceed \$245,000.00.

On a motion made by Commissioner Mirabella and seconded by Commissioner Williams, roll call showed nine members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

2023-792 CHAIRMAN SERGIO GRANADOS: Amending Resolution 2022-823 to increase the amount payable to Geneva Worldwide Interpretation Services, New York, NY for the purpose of providing interpretation services to the non-English speaking clients of the Union County Department of Human Services, Division of Social Services in an amount of \$15,000.00, for a total not to exceed \$65,000.00.

On a motion made by Commissioner Mirabella and seconded by Commissioner Williams, roll call showed nine members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

2023-793 CHAIRMAN SERGIO GRANADOS: Amending Resolution 2023-666, a contract with Geographic Solutions, Palm Harbor, FL for continuation of Workforce Information Management Data Exchange System, to adjust appropriation accounts and to extend the contract period by an additional six (6) months through June 30, 2024 and increase funds in the amount not to exceed \$29,550.00, for a new total contract of not to exceed \$59,100.00.

On a motion made by Commissioner Mirabella and seconded by Commissioner Williams, roll call showed nine members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

2023-794 CHAIRMAN SERGIO GRANADOS: Amending Resolution Number 2023-663, authorizing the FY2022 SuperNOFO Continuum of Care (CoC) program competitive grant award funds, to reflect a change in account numbers only.

On a motion made by Commissioner Mirabella and seconded by Commissioner Williams, roll call showed nine members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

2023-795 CHAIRMAN SERGIO GRANADOS: Amending Resolution 2023-664, agreement with United Way of Greater Union County, Elizabeth, New Jersey, to provide family support and prevention services to Union County families in order to promote

stability and wellness, to reflect a shift in funds under the account number and to reflect additional grant dollars in the amount of \$17,500.00 for a new total not to exceed \$267,500.00; with no change to the grant term or terms and conditions of the agreement.

On a motion made by Commissioner Mirabella and seconded by Commissioner Williams, roll call showed nine members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

2023-796 CHAIRMAN SERGIO GRANADOS: Authorizing the County Manager to enter into a contract with Frank M. Gargiulo & Son, Inc. dba Gargiulo Produce, Hillside, NJ, for the purpose of providing food for the Union County COVID-19 Emergency Food Distribution events for the period of September 1, 2023 through December 31, 2023 in an amount not to exceed \$636,857.00.

On a motion made by Commissioner Mirabella and seconded by Commissioner Williams, roll call showed nine members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

2023-797 CHAIRMAN SERGIO GRANADOS: Amending Resolution 2023-746 with Village Super Market, Inc. dba ShopRite of Union Springfield, NJ for the purpose of changing the agreement period from November 1, 2023 through December 31, 2023 , to September 1, 2023 through December 31, 2023 with no other changes to the terms and conditions of the agreement.

On a motion made by Commissioner Mirabella and seconded by Commissioner Williams, roll call showed nine members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

COMMISSIONER SPONSORED RESOLUTIONS

2023-798 COMMISSIONER JAMES BAKER JR, & THE ENTIRE BOARD: Recognizing September 2023 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 recovery possible.

On a motion made by Commissioner Mirabella and seconded by Commissioner Williams, roll call showed nine members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

2023-799 COMMISSIONER JOSEPH C BODEK, & THE ENTIRE BOARD: Offering this Board's deepest condolences to the family of Mrs. Myra Elaine (Cameron) Volpe during their time of sorrow.

On a motion made by Commissioner Mirabella and seconded by Commissioner Williams, roll call showed nine members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

2023-800 COMMISSIONER ANGELA R. GARRETSON, & THE ENTIRE BOARD: Congratulating Pastor R. Lenton Buffalo, Jr. of Union Baptist Church in Elizabeth on his 35th Pastoral Anniversary on October 14, 2023.

On a motion made by Commissioner Mirabella and seconded by Commissioner Williams, roll call showed nine members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

2023-801 COMMISSIONER ANGELA R. GARRETSON, & THE ENTIRE BOARD: Expressing the Board's deepest condolences to the family of Joe Adair in their time of sorrow.

On a motion made by Commissioner Mirabella and seconded by Commissioner Williams, roll call showed nine members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

2023-802 COMMISSIONER BETTE JANE KOWALSKI, & THE ENTIRE BOARD: Expressing the Board's deepest condolences to the family of Joseph Hartnett in their time of sorrow.

On a motion made by Commissioner Mirabella and seconded by Commissioner Williams, roll call showed nine members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

2023-803 COMMISSIONER ALEXANDER MIRABELLA, & THE ENTIRE BOARD: Congratulating Vivian Haas, Fanwood resident, celebrating her 100th birthday on October 12th, 2023.

On a motion made by Commissioner Mirabella and seconded by Commissioner Williams, roll call showed nine members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

2023-804 COMMISSIONER REBECCA LYNNE WILLIAMS, & THE ENTIRE BOARD: Congratulating Masjidullah Plainfield as they host their Annual Gala Fundraiser on September 23rd, 2023.

On a motion made by Commissioner Mirabella and seconded by Commissioner Williams, roll call showed nine members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

2023-805 COMMISSIONER REBECCA LYNNE WILLIAMS, & THE ENTIRE BOARD: Congratulating the Greater Union County Chapter of Jack and Jill Inc. as they host the Annual Jack and Jill Day Activities Event, also known as Carol Robertson Day, at Jerseyland Park in Scotch Plains on September 9th, 2023.

On a motion made by Commissioner Mirabella and seconded by Commissioner Williams, roll call showed nine members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

2023-806 COMMISSIONER REBECCA LYNNE WILLIAMS, & THE ENTIRE BOARD: Congratulating Mary Burgwinkle for her years of dedication to the Plainfield Symphony Orchestra at the 104th Season Showcase Gala on Saturday, September 9th, 2023.

On a motion made by Commissioner Mirabella and seconded by Commissioner Williams, roll call showed nine members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

2023-807 CHAIRMAN SERGIO GRANADOS, COMMISSIONER LOURDES M. LEON, & THE ENTIRE BOARD: Offering the board's deepest condolences to the family of Manuel Rodrigues Grova in their time of sorrow.

On a motion made by Commissioner Mirabella and seconded by Commissioner Williams, roll call showed nine members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

2023-808 CHAIRMAN SERGIO GRANADOS, & THE ENTIRE BOARD: Offering this Board's sincere gratitude to Joseph Graziano for his 17 years of service to the County as Director of the Department of Engineering, Public Works & Facilities Management.

On a motion made by Commissioner Mirabella and seconded by Commissioner Williams, roll call showed nine members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

2023-809 CHAIRMAN SERGIO GRANADOS, & THE ENTIRE BOARD: Proclaiming the month of September 2023 as Prostate Cancer Awareness Month.

On a motion made by Commissioner Mirabella and seconded by Commissioner Williams, roll call showed nine members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

COMMISSIONER REPORTS AND COMMENTS

Commissioner Kowalski began her remarks by thanking the representatives from the Rails to Trails organization for the tremendous work they do and extended her gratitude to her colleague, Commissioner Mirabella, for his dedicated work with the Rails to Trails and for serving as a tremendous mentor to her and the rest of the Commissioner Board.

Commissioner Kowalski made comments relative to the 2024 HEART Grants; noting that the grant stands for "History, Education, Arts Reaching Thousands" and they are for non-profit organizations, individual artists and scholars. She advised that the grants are dedicated to projects that increase appreciation to local history, the arts and humanities.

Commissioner Baker made comments relative to the Vocational-Technical Schools recognition earlier in the meeting. He noted his long advocacy for education and commended the County's dedication of investing in Education over the years.

Commissioner Baker offered comments relative to the County's ASK Community events for seniors and their caregivers to connect with senior programs and resources such as respite care, home care, and home delivered meals, and adult day care.

Commissioner Mirabella made comments relative to the County's Annual commemoration of POW/MIA Remembrance Day on the Courthouse steps on Friday, September 15, 2023 to honor and remember and pay tribute to those brave individuals who have paid the ultimate sacrifice and to show continued support to their families.

Commissioner Mirabella announced that Commissioner Williams will be honored by the LGBTQ Democratic Organization; noting that she is a genuine trailblazer in the LGBTQ community.

Commissioner Mirabella made comments in response to Mr. Paterson's comments regarding Phyllis Mirabella; noting that his remarks were made against a strong professional woman who volunteers hundreds of hours of her personal time. He noted the unfortunate reality that public servants often have to take the brunt of those types of vulgar, unprofessional, unwarranted and unnecessary comments.

Commissioner Leon made comments relative to the Hispanic Heritage Month Celebration; noting it kicks off with the 2023 Hispanic Heritage Awards at the Union County Performing Arts Center Concert featuring the Spanish Harlem Orchestra. Commissioner Leon announced each of the Award Recipients: Alberto Goncalves (Business Leadership Award), Olga Hugelmeyer (Angel Estrada Community Leadership Award) and the Hispanic Law Enforcement Association (Public Safety Award).

Commissioner Williams made comments relative to September as National Suicide Prevention Awareness Month; noting a free webinar entitled "Supporting Someone in Emotional Distress" presented by Michelle Habayeb, Crisis Line Director, Caring Contact on September 13, 2023 via Zoom. She noted that 1 in 5 adults will experience emotional distress. She noted that the County's Department of Human Services co-partnered with Caring Contact for this webinar.

Commissioner Garretson congratulated the Vocational-Technical School and commented on how proud she was of their success. She noted her affiliation with NJIT who was recognized as the second (#2) public institution in the state; noting these recognitions gives her two reasons to be proud of the high level of educational opportunities in Union County and the State of New Jersey.

Commissioner Garretson thanked ROI-NJ for her recognition as one of the 2023 People of Color Influencer, as Chief External Affairs Officer for the NJ Institute of Technology.

Commissioner Garretson made comments relative to the unfortunate passing of Lt. Governor Shelia Oliver and her representation of this Board at her funeral. She noted her faith in Secretary of State Tahesha L. Way as the next Lieutenant Governor of New Jersey. She added that "She has big shoes to fill, but she has heels, so she will do a great job."

Commissioner Garretson made comments relative to the Household Hazardous Waste Event on Saturday, September 9, 2023 from 9am to 2pm at Union College.

Commissioner Bodek made comments relative to the 22nd Anniversary of the despicable 9/11 terrorist attacks on (our) nation. He noted that 2,753 people died in NYC; including 343 firefighters, 184 individuals at the Pentagon, 40 people aboard Flight 93, and the countless number of individuals who have suffered as a result of illnesses caused by those attacks and the members of our military who fight in defense of our freedoms from terrorist groups.

Commissioner Bodek also make comments relative to the Fall Fishing Derby for Persons with Disabilities and Special Needs being held on Saturday, September 9, 2023 at Lower Echo Lake Park in Mountainside.

Commissioner Bodek offered his congratulations to Commissioner Rebecca Williams on her recognition.

Vice Chairwoman Palmieri-Mouded congratulated Commissioner Rebecca Williams on her honor. Vice Chairwoman Palmieri-Mouded took a moment to thank both Commissioner Mirabella and his wife Phyllis Mirabella (in the audience) for their generosity and role as a mentor as to how to balance work, family and volunteerism.

Vice Chairwoman Palmieri-Mouded made comments relative to the Summer Arts Concerts and thanked the Parks and Public Safety Departments for their collaborative efforts in putting these concerts together.

Vice Chairwoman Palmieri-Mouded thanked Family Promise's efforts in making actual change in people's lives; noting the shelter diversion success and the placement of people in affordable housing.

Vice Chairwoman wished students and teachers the best of luck on the start of the new school year.

Vice Chairwoman made comments relative to the County's 9/11 Memorial Vigil on September 11, 2003 at Echo Lake Park; noting a uniformed honor guard will be standing watch from 6pm – 9pm for those who wish to reflect and light candles.

Chairman Granados announced that he was just informed by County Manager Oatman, through the work of Senate President Scutari, the County of Union will be awarded \$1M from the NJDOT Local Transportation Project for the New York Connects to Union County East Coast Greenway Bikeways Project; connecting bike trails from the Gohtal's Bridge through the City of Elizabeth onto the East Coast Greenway.

Chairman Granados congratulated Commissioner Williams on her honor by the LGTBQ Community. Chairman Granados made comments relative to the County's Hispanic Heritage Month Flag Raising Ceremony on September 15, 2023.

ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Granados asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. On a motion made by Commissioner Mirabella and seconded by Vice-Chairwoman Palmieri-Mouded, roll call showed nine members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:26 P.M.

UNION COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
2023 MEETING SCHEDULE
REORGANIZATION MEETING - THURSDAY, JANUARY 3, 2023 at 6:00 pm
Union County Courthouse- 2 Broad Street. Elizabeth

AGENDA SETTING SESSION

January 26, 2023
February 9, 2023
February 23, 2023
March 16, 2023
March 30, 2023
April 13, 2023
April 27, 2023
May 11, 2023
May 25, 2023
June 8, 2023
June 22, 2023
July 13, 2023
August 17, 2023
September 7, 2023
September 21, 2023
October 12, 2023
October 26, 2023
November 9, 2023
December 7, 2023
December 21, 2023

REGULAR MEETINGS

January 26, 2023
February 9, 2023
February 23, 2023
March 16, 2023
March 30, 2023
April 13, 2023
April 27, 2023
May 11, 2023
May 25, 2023
June 8, 2023
June 22, 2023
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August 17, 2023
September 7, 2023
September 21, 2023
October 12, 2023
October 26, 2023
November 9, 2023
December 7, 2023
December 21, 2023


James F. 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.

All meetings are to be held in the Commissioner Meeting Room within the Administration Building, 6th 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 this 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.