

## UNION COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2023  
AGENDA SETTING MEETING MINUTES

### CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Granados presided over the meeting and called the meeting to order at 6:00 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 Bette Jane Kowalski, Commissioner Lourdes M. Leon, Commissioner Alexander Mirabella, and Commissioner Rebecca Williams were present, with Commissioner Angela R. Garretson absent.

Also present were County Manager Edward T. Oatman, County Counsel Bruce H. Bergen Esq., and Clerk of the Board James E. Pellettiere.

### PRAYER AND SALUTE TO THE FLAG

The prayer and salute to the flag were led by Clerk of the Board Pellettiere.

### STATEMENT OF COMPLIANCE WITH THE OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT

The statement of compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act was read by Clerk of the Board Pellettiere.

Chairman Granados noted the events that unfolded in Maine the previous evening, adding that these incidents underscored the importance of existing gun legislation and expanding on these laws. He advised that NJ has some of the strongest gun legislation, resulting in being one of the states with the lowest incidence of gun violence. He noted the Board's commitment to their community and its citizens. Chairman Granados asked for a moment of silence...

### PRESENTATIONS BY THE BOARD

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A resolution presentation was made by the Board to representatives of the Union County Performing Arts Center (UCPAC) congratulating them on their 95th Anniversary, and further recognizing the UCPAC's contributions to the greater Union County Community since the opening night of the Bratter and Pollack's million-dollar Rahway Theatre on Tuesday, October 16th, 1928 at 7:30 PM - a gala benefit film and stage show featuring House Organist Chet Kingsbury performing on the historical Wurlitzer pipe organ.

Chairman Granados noted that the Board was honored to present a resolution to the UCPAC in honor of their 95<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. He noted that the UCPAC was an

important cornerstone of the Union County community, adding that he looked forward to having the arts continue to thrive in Union County.

UCPAC Executive Director, Diana Hunt, thanked the Board for the recognition, noting that UCPAC greatly appreciated their support and investment in the arts.

Former County Manager and UCPAC Board Member, Al Faella, read a letter authored by Colleen Gialanella thanking the Board for the recognition and their continued support of the arts and UCPAC.

Chairman Granados thanked UCPAC for their continued efforts.

Chairman Granados called upon his colleagues to join him for a special presentation.

Chairman Granados recognized Commissioner colleague, Alexander Mirabella, for 25 years of service to the County of Union. He advised that Commissioner Mirabella had served as Chairman of the Board six times during his career, noting his valuable leadership during the COVID-19 Pandemic of 2020. He noted Commissioner Mirabella's impressive career, adding that he has left a positive, lasting impact on the County of Union.

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#### **APPROVAL OF COMMUNICATIONS**

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Note and File

#### **DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES**

Laura Scutari, Director

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There were no questions or comments by the Board.

1. Amending Resolution 2021-634, a contract with Dietz & Hammer Risk Solution, Newton, NJ, for Third Party Claims Administration for Workers' Compensation and Managed Care Services, General and Auto Liability, Property and Auto Physical Damage, to extend the contract for an additional two (2) months, for the period of November 1, 2023 to December 31, 2023 in an amount not to exceed \$82,075.00, for a new total contract not to exceed \$1,066,975.00. **(Chairman Sergio Granados)**

#### **DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

Amy Crisp Wagner, Deputy County Manager/Director

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There were no questions or comments by the Board.

1. Amending Resolution 2022-1090, a contract with Development Directions, LLC, Cranford, NJ, to add additional funds in the amount of \$10,000.00 to cover any shortfall in the administration fee of the Union County Housing Assistance Payment Program (Section 8), for the period of November 1, 2023 through December 31, 2023 for a new total contract amount not to exceed \$510,000.00. **(Chairman Sergio Granados)**

2. Amending Resolution 2023-815, a contract obtained through advertised public bidding pursuant to Local Public Contracts Law, N.J.S.A. 40A: 11-1 et seq., with Johnston Communication, Springfield, NJ, for the provision of providing telephone/associated services systems equipment, installation, and maintenance services for various County Departments, to reflect an increase to the contract in the amount of \$19,999.31 for a new total amount not to exceed \$1,016,423.14. **(Chairman Sergio Granados)**

**DEPARTMENT OF ENGINEERING, PUBLIC WORKS & FACILITIES MANAGEMENT**

Joseph Policay, Acting Director

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There were no questions or comments by the Board.

1. Authorizing the County Manager to enter into an interlocal agreement to pave portions of East Broad Street from North Avenue Westbound to Elmer Street in Westfield, New Jersey as part of the annual repaving program. All costs for the construction of this portion of the paving are to be paid for by Town of Westfield. **(Commissioner Bette Jane Kowalski)**
2. Granting permission to the Township of Berkeley Heights to hang banners on Plainfield Avenue and Springfield Avenue from November 4, 2023 to December 4, 2023 and to close Springfield Avenue and Sherman Avenue on December 2, 2023 from 1:00 pm to 8:00 pm for the Berkeley Heights Annual Winter Walk. **(Commissioner Bette Jane Kowalski)**

**DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES**

Debbie-Ann Anderson, Director

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1. Authorizing the County Manager to establish funds for all burial costs for the indigent, unidentified or unclaimed deceased persons of Union County at a burial rate not to exceed \$1,550.00 in a total amount not to exceed \$40,000.00 for the period of January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2024. **(Chairman Sergio Granados)**
2. Authorizing the County Manager to institute the Countywide Code Blue Emergency Shelter Initiative to provide emergency shelter during emergency sheltering situations including days that qualify under the State of New Jersey's Code Blue law by the hotels, motels and shelters listed for the period of January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2024, in an amount not to exceed \$350,000.00. **(Chairman Sergio Granados)**

Vice-Chairwoman Palmieri-Mouded asked Director Anderson for a total of Code Blue Nights for 2022.

Director Anderson advised that 94 Code Blue Nights had been declared, adding that over 300 adults & children had been served by this initiative.

Commissioner Baker asked for an estimated increase from one year to the next.

Division of Individual and Family Support Services Division Director Christina Topolosky advised that she believed the Code Blue Nights had increased by nine nights from the prior year.

Chairman Granados asked Director Anderson to provide additional information related to this increase following the meeting.

3. Authorizing the County Manager to enter into a contract with Synergex International Corporation, Gold River, CA formerly known as Unitronix Data Systems, for the provision of software License and Software Maintenance for the Department of Human Services, Division of Social Services commencing on January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2024 in an amount not to exceed \$164,386.76. **(Chairman Sergio Granados)**
4. Authorizing the County Manager to apply for, accept and execute the CY2024 Alcoholism/Drug Abuse (A/DA) Grant funding from the NJ Department of Human Services, Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS), for the provision of prevention education/early intervention and treatment program for medically indigent residents of Union County in the amount of \$821,308.00 with a County Cash Match requirement not to exceed \$108,561.00 for the period of January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2024. **(Commissioner James Baker Jr)**
5. Authorizing the County Manager to enter into a contract with Pharma-Care Inc., Clark, NJ to provide pharmacy consulting services for the patients at Cornerstone Behavioral Health Hospital for the period of January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2024 in an amount not to exceed \$12,000.00. **(Commissioner Rebecca Lynne Williams)**
6. Authorizing the County Manager to enter into a contract with Salina Support Services, LLC Pinehurst, NC, to provide computer software license, maintenance, and support for Cornerstone Behavioral Health Hospital of Union County for the contract period of January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2024 in the total amount not to exceed \$14,159.05. **(Commissioner Rebecca Lynne Williams)**
7. Amending Resolution 2023-283 to reflect an increase in the 2023 Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) Spending Plan in the amount of \$58,767.00 for a new total amount not to exceed \$721,392.00. **(Chairman Sergio Granados)**
8. Authorizing the County Manager to award a contract to Prevention Links, Inc., Roselle, NJ to improve access to opioid treatment, harm reduction and recovery services for individuals within Union County for the period of November 1, 2023 through December 31, 2024 in an amount not to exceed \$84,105.00. **(Chairman Sergio Granados)**
9. Authorizing the County Manager to utilize Year Three of the option to extend the contract obtained through competitive contracting process RCCP #10-2021 to the YWCA of Eastern Union County, Elizabeth, New Jersey, for the provision of coordination services associated with the Family Justice Center for the contract period of January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2024 in the total amount not to exceed \$332,400.00 with the option to extend the contract for two (2) one-year periods. **(Chairman Sergio Granados)**

10. Authorizing the County Manager to enter into a contract with The Gateway Family YMCA, Elizabeth, NJ to operate The Dudley House Veterans Transitional Housing Program for homeless veterans and eligible homeless males for the period of January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2024 in the amount not to exceed \$75,000.00. **(Chairman Sergio Granados)**
11. Authorizing the County Manager to enter into a contract with Family Promise, Inc., Summit, NJ, for the 2024 Shelter Diversion program for the period of January 1, 2024 to December 31, 2024 in an amount not to exceed \$150,000.00. **(Chairman Sergio Granados)**

**DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY**

Dennis Burke, Acting Director

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There were no questions or comments by the Board.

1. Authorizing the County Manager to award a contract obtained through advertised public bidding in accordance with the Local Public Contracts Law, NJSA 40A:11-1 et seq; Department of Public Safety, WAR Industrial Services LLC, 10444 South Eagle Valley Road, Port Matilda, PA, for the purpose of making repairs to the UASI Neptune System in an amount not to exceed \$76,839.96 (BA# 26-2023). **(Commissioner James Baker Jr)**

**OFFICE OF THE COUNTY MANAGER**

Edward Oatman, County Manager

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1. Authorizing the County Manager to utilize the competitive contracting procurement (RCCP) method to identify a provider to provide multilingual outreach services for various initiatives for the County of Union. **(Chairman Sergio Granados)**
2. Authorizing the County Manager to utilize the competitive contracting procurement (RCCP) method to identify a vendor to provide Pediatric Mental Health Access Expansion Programming within the County of Union. **(Chairman Sergio Granados)**
3. Authorizing the County Manager to enter into a memorandum of agreement between the Ritesh Shah Charitable Pharmacy and the County of Union to provide pharmacy and other services for uninsured and underserved residents of Union County for the period of November 1, 2023 through October 31, 2024. **(Chairman Sergio Granados)**

County Manager Oatman called upon Ritesh Shah to elaborate on this item.

Ritesh Shah, of Ritesh Shah Charitable Pharmacy, spoke relative to his career and the inspiration behind Ritesh Shah Charitable Pharmacy. He noted that after losing his younger sister, he was inspired to help his community by creating a charitable pharmacy to assist patients that do not qualify for Medicaid or Medicare and or cannot afford to purchase insurance to cover their medication costs. He recognized County Manager Oatman and Director Anderson for their efforts and for welcoming this resource into Union County.

**COMMISSIONER SPONSORED RESOLUTIONS**

1. Authorizing the County Manager to enter into a contract with Partac Peat Corp., Great Meadows, NJ, through #ESCNJ Coop # 21/22-10 for the purpose of purchasing Beam Clay for various baseball and softball fields in an amount not to exceed \$50,322.34. **(Commissioner Lourdes M. Leon)**
2. Extending this Board's deepest condolences to the family of Reverend Gerald Lamont Thomas during their time of sorrow. **(Commissioner Rebecca Lynne Williams, & The Entire Board)**
3. Sponsoring the Queen City Film & Television Workshop's 6th Annual Queen City Film Festival being held on October 20, 2023 in an amount not to exceed \$1,000.00. **(Vice Chairwoman Kimberly Palmieri-Mouded, & The Entire Board)**
4. Authorizing the County Manager to award the Union County On Stage! Grants, and enter into grant agreements with the individual high schools and non-profit organizations in an amount not to exceed \$53,875.00. **(Chairman Sergio Granados, & The Entire Board)**
5. Congratulating the Union County Performing Arts Center as they celebrate their 95th Anniversary, and further recognizing the Union County Performing Arts Center's contributions to the greater Union County Community since the opening night of the Bratter and Pollack's million-dollar Rahway Theatre on Tuesday, October 16th, 1928 at 7:30 PM – a gala benefit film and stage show featuring House Organist Chet Kingsbury performing on the historical Wurlitzer pipe organ. **(Chairman Sergio Granados, Commissioner Lourdes M. Leon, & The Entire Board)**
6. Recognizing the accomplishments of the following Girl Scouts from Our lady of Fatima: Juliana Rose Fernandes who is receiving her Silver Award, and Gianna Arias, Lucia Isabel De Jesus and Sophia Figueroa who are receiving their Bronze Award. **(Chairman Sergio Granados, & The Entire Board)**
7. Recognizing the Center for Hope upon celebrating their 40th year at their annual Gala and honoring Dr. Kamran Tasharofi. **(Chairman Sergio Granados, Commissioner Lourdes M. Leon, & The Entire Board)**
8. Recognizing the Month of October as National Principals Month, throughout Union County, and further recognizing all the elementary and secondary school principals who dedicate their knowledge and abilities all year long. **(Chairman Sergio Granados, & The Entire Board)**
9. Re-appointing Roshan White to the Workforce Development Board for a term beginning July 1, 2022 and ending June 30, 2025 and appointing Tim McConway for a term beginning July, 1, 2022 and ending June 30, 2025. **(Chairman Sergio Granados)**

**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 eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative, with Commissioner Garretson absent.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:26 P.M.

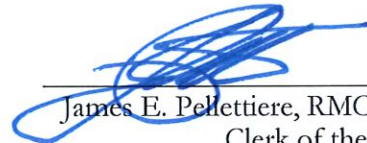
**UNION COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**  
**2023 MEETING SCHEDULE**  
**REORGANIZATION MEETING - THURSDAY, JANUARY 3, 2023 at 6:00 pm**  
**Union County Courthouse- 2 Broad Street. Elizabeth**

**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  
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

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

Please note that the County Commissioners' meetings are to be regularly held on Thursday evenings and are scheduled to be held on the same evening, with the Agenda Setting Session to commence at 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 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.