



UNION COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2023
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Granados presided over the meeting and called the meeting to order at 6:27 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.

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 Williams, roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative, with Commissioner Garretson absent.

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.

Bruce Paterson, of Garwood, made comments and asked questions relative to several resolutions. Relative to Reso No. 2023-975, he applauded the County's efforts to this end. Relative to general comments, Mr. Paterson spoke about Ashbrook Golf Course, the Tower Stairwell Project, the new Union County Government Complex, and the flooding in the County's Annex building. He also

made comments related to County Manager Oatman, Director Taylor, and Commissioner Mirabella.

County Manager Oatman noted the comments made by Mr. Paterson, advising that the County buildings were old and repairs were needed. He also noted that the excavator at Ashbrook Golf Course was fully insured.

Prevention Links CEO, Morgan Thompson, thanked the Board and the Department of Human Services for their continued support and their recent attendance of Red Ribbon Day, where the Board was honored with a Community Impact Award. She noted the difficulties of addressing substance abuse and thanked the County of Union for their comprehensive and aggressive approach, noting programs like the Raymond J. Lesniak Recovery High School and Operation Helping Hands. She noted that with the continued support of the Board, Prevention Links looked forward to making great strides in addressing substance abuse.

Delia Hamlet, Summit Councilwoman, inquired about any updates regarding Briant Park. She also made comments relative to the Commissioner Meeting Minutes.

Juanita Vargas, of United Way of Greater Union County, thanked the Board for their continued support, noting that the organization had seen a tremendous increase in people needing rental assistance.

Director Durbin-Drake addressed Councilwoman Hamlet's concerns relative to Briant Park, noting that an aeration system had been used to help reduce the sediment. Additionally, she advised that a recent contract for a hydro-rake had been approved, adding that the equipment would be used to clear some of the growth and weeds at Briant Park. She noted that the County was committed to addressing the issues at Briant Park.

Relative to the growing need in rental assistance, Deputy County Manager Wagner advised that the County had received \$16 million in ERAP funding, adding that the County anticipated another \$6 million from recaptured funding. She further advised that a system was being devised so that requests could be submitted directly to the State, rather than having the County serve as a conduit.

Chairman Granados thanked Juanita Vargas and Morgan Thompson for their efforts and for continuing to be a valuable community partner.

There were no additional comments or questions.

RESOLUTIONS FOR ADOPTION

The following resolutions are being offered for adoption:

- 2023-915 COMMISSIONER JAMES BAKER JR:** 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).

On a motion made by Commissioner Kowalski and seconded by Commissioner Bodek, roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative, with Commissioner Garretson absent.

2023-916 COMMISSIONER JAMES BAKER JR: 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.

On a motion made by Commissioner Kowalski and seconded by Commissioner Bodek, roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative, with Commissioner Garretson absent.

2023-917 COMMISSIONER BETTE JANE KOWALSKI: 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.

On a motion made by Commissioner Kowalski and seconded by Commissioner Bodek, roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative, with Commissioner Garretson absent.

2023-918 COMMISSIONER BETTE JANE KOWALSKI: 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.

On a motion made by Commissioner Kowalski and seconded by Commissioner Bodek, roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative, with Commissioner Garretson absent.

2023-919 COMMISSIONER LOURDES M. LEON: 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.

On a motion made by Commissioner Kowalski and seconded by Commissioner Bodek, roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative, with Commissioner Garretson absent.

2023-920 COMMISSIONER REBECCA LYNNE WILLIAMS: 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.

On a motion made by Commissioner Kowalski and seconded by Commissioner Bodek, roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative, with Commissioner Garretson absent.

2023-921 COMMISSIONER REBECCA LYNNE WILLIAMS: 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.

On a motion made by Commissioner Kowalski and seconded by Commissioner Bodek, roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative, with Commissioner Garretson absent.

2023-922 VICE CHAIRWOMAN KIMBERLY PALMIERI-MOUDED, & THE ENTIRE BOARD: 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.

On a motion made by Commissioner Kowalski and seconded by Commissioner Bodek, roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative, with Commissioner Garretson absent.

2023-923 CHAIRMAN SERGIO GRANADOS: 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.

On a motion made by Commissioner Kowalski and seconded by Commissioner Bodek, roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative, with Commissioner Garretson absent.

2023-924 CHAIRMAN SERGIO GRANADOS: 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.

On a motion made by Commissioner Kowalski and seconded by Commissioner Bodek, roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative, with Commissioner Garretson absent.

2023-925 CHAIRMAN SERGIO GRANADOS: 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.

On a motion made by Commissioner Kowalski and seconded by Commissioner Bodek, roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative, with Commissioner Garretson absent.

2023-926 CHAIRMAN SERGIO GRANADOS: 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.

On a motion made by Commissioner Kowalski and seconded by Commissioner Bodek, roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative, with Commissioner Garretson absent.

2023-927 CHAIRMAN SERGIO GRANADOS: 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.

On a motion made by Commissioner Kowalski and seconded by Commissioner Bodek, roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative, with Commissioner Garretson absent.

2023-928 CHAIRMAN SERGIO GRANADOS: 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.

On a motion made by Commissioner Kowalski and seconded by Commissioner Bodek, roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative, with Commissioner Garretson absent.

2023-929 CHAIRMAN SERGIO GRANADOS: 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.

On a motion made by Commissioner Kowalski and seconded by Commissioner Bodek, roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative, with Commissioner Garretson absent.

2023-930 CHAIRMAN SERGIO GRANADOS: 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.

On a motion made by Commissioner Kowalski and seconded by Commissioner Bodek, roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative, with Commissioner Garretson absent.

2023-931 CHAIRMAN SERGIO GRANADOS: 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.

On a motion made by Commissioner Kowalski and seconded by Commissioner Bodek, roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative, with Commissioner Garretson absent.

2023-932 CHAIRMAN SERGIO GRANADOS: 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.

On a motion made by Commissioner Kowalski and seconded by Commissioner Bodek, roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative, with Commissioner Garretson absent.

2023-933 CHAIRMAN SERGIO GRANADOS: 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.

On a motion made by Commissioner Kowalski and seconded by Commissioner Bodek, roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative, with Commissioner Garretson absent.

2023-934 CHAIRMAN SERGIO GRANADOS: 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.

On a motion made by Commissioner Kowalski and seconded by Commissioner Bodek, roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative, with Commissioner Garretson absent.

- 2023-935 CHAIRMAN SERGIO GRANADOS:** 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.

On a motion made by Commissioner Kowalski and seconded by Commissioner Bodek, roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative, with Commissioner Garretson absent.

- 2023-936 CHAIRMAN SERGIO GRANADOS:** 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.

On a motion made by Commissioner Kowalski and seconded by Commissioner Bodek, roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative, with Commissioner Garretson absent.

- 2023-937 CHAIRMAN SERGIO GRANADOS, & THE ENTIRE BOARD:** 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.

On a motion made by Commissioner Kowalski and seconded by Commissioner Bodek, roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative, with Commissioner Garretson absent.

- 2023-938 CHAIRMAN SERGIO GRANADOS:** 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.

On a motion made by Commissioner Kowalski and seconded by Commissioner Bodek, roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative, with Commissioner Garretson absent.

COMMISSIONER SPONSORED RESOLUTIONS

- 2023-939 CHAIRMAN SERGIO GRANADOS, COMMISSIONER LOURDES M. LEON, & THE ENTIRE BOARD:** 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.

On a motion made by Commissioner Kowalski and seconded by Commissioner Bodek, roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative, with Commissioner Garretson absent.

2023-940 COMMISSIONER REBECCA LYNNE WILLIAMS, & THE ENTIRE BOARD: Extending this Board's deepest condolences to the family of Reverend Gerald Lamont Thomas during their time of sorrow.

On a motion made by Commissioner Kowalski and seconded by Commissioner Bodek, roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative, with Commissioner Garretson absent.

2023-941 CHAIRMAN SERGIO GRANADOS, & THE ENTIRE BOARD: 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.

On a motion made by Commissioner Kowalski and seconded by Commissioner Bodek, roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative, with Commissioner Garretson absent.

2023-942 CHAIRMAN SERGIO GRANADOS, COMMISSIONER LOURDES M. LEON, & THE ENTIRE BOARD: Recognizing the Center for Hope upon celebrating their 40th year at their annual Gala and honoring Dr. Kamran Tasharofi.

On a motion made by Commissioner Kowalski and seconded by Commissioner Bodek, roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative, with Commissioner Garretson absent.

2023-943 CHAIRMAN SERGIO GRANADOS, & THE ENTIRE BOARD: 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.

On a motion made by Commissioner Kowalski and seconded by Commissioner Bodek, roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative, with Commissioner Garretson absent.

COMMISSIONER REPORTS AND COMMENTS

Commissioner Kowalski spoke relative to an upcoming, informational workshop entitled "Bring Back Bats" on November 11th at Trailside Nature & Science Center. She encouraged interested residents to visit the County website for additional information.

Commissioner Baker advised that sample ballots were in the process of being mailed to registered voters, adding that additional election-related information could be found on the County's voting website. He further advised that early voting would

begin on Saturday, October 28th, adding that a list of early-voting locations could be found on the County Clerk's website.

Commissioner Mirabella noted an upcoming WWI Memorial Presentation on November 8th at the Springfield Public Library, hosted by the County's Office of Cultural & Heritage Affairs and funded through NJ's Historical Commission. He added that the presentation would be led by Eric Burro. He encouraged interested residents to visit the County website for additional information. To close, he wished his colleagues well on their upcoming elections, adding that he was confident they would be re-elected.

Commissioner Williams invited residents to attend an in-door movie of Strange World at Hamilton Stage in Rahway. She noted that she was looking forward to attending this screening following the restoration done at Hamilton Stage following Hurricane Ida. She thanked UCPAC for their continued partnership. To close, she congratulated Commissioner Mirabella on being recognized for 25 years of service.

Commissioner Bodek encouraged residents to bring their pumpkins and or jack-o-lanterns to the County's pumpkin recycling drive taking place from November 1 – November 27th. He noted that additional information related to the location of these drives could be found on the County website.

Commissioner Leon spoke relative to the County's "Beyond the Bin" mega recycling event on November 4th at Union County Vocational Technical School. She advised that a list of accepted items could be found on the County's website.

Counsel Bergen congratulated Commissioner Mirabella on his 25 years of service and recognized his extraordinary commitment to public service.

County Manager Oatman wished Commissioner Garretson a Happy Birthday.

Vice-Chairwoman Palmieri-Mouded advised that the County would be collecting various winter clothing, noting various drop-off locations throughout the County. On another note, she thanked Morgan Thompson, of Prevention Links, for their continued and remarkable efforts.

Chairman Granados noted the recent rescue of a missing child at the Watchung Reservation on Sunday. He thanked law enforcement and everyone involved for their efforts in reuniting this child with her family.

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 7:00 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, 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.