



UNION COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

THURSDAY, MARCH 27, 2024
AGENDA SETTING MEETING MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

Chairwoman Palmieri-Mouded presided over the meeting and called the meeting to order at 6:00 P.M.

ROLL CALL

Roll call showed Chairwoman Kimberly Palmieri-Mouded, Vice-Chairwoman Lourdes M. Leon, Commissioner James E. Baker, Jr, Commissioner Joseph C. Bodek, Commissioner Michèle S. Delisfort, Commissioner Sergio Granados, Commissioner Bette Jane Kowalski, and Commissioner Rebecca Williams were present, with Commissioner Alexander Mirabella 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

Chairwoman Palmieri-Mouded advised that the Communications would be approved later during the Regular Meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Wednesday, February 7, 2024 - Agenda Setting Session
2. Wednesday, February 7, 2024 - Regular Meeting
3. Wednesday, February 21, 2024 - Agenda Setting Session
4. Wednesday, February 21, 2024 - Regular Meeting

Chairwoman Palmieri-Mouded advised that the February Minutes would be approved later during the Regular Meeting.

OFFICE OF THE UNION COUNTY CLERKJoanne Rajoppi, County Clerk

There was no question or comments by the Board.

1. Authorizing the County Manager to enter into an agreement with International Business Machines Corporation (IBM), Piscataway, New Jersey for the purpose of providing hardware and software maintenance for the Union County Clerk's imaging and web servers for the period of January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2024 in an amount not to exceed \$62,517.73. **(Chairwoman Kimberly Palmieri-Mouded)**

OFFICE OF THE UNION COUNTY PROSECUTORWilliam Daniel, County Prosecutor

There was no question or comments by the Board.

1. Authorizing the County Manager, through the Office of the Union County Prosecutor's Office, to apply for and accept funding from the State of New Jersey, Division of Administration, Department of Law and Public Safety, Office of the Attorney General, Grants Development Section FFY23 STOP Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) Grant Program in the amount of \$45,686.00 in federal funds with a required match of \$15,229.00 for a total project cost in the amount of \$60,915.00 for the period of July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025. **(Chairwoman Kimberly Palmieri-Mouded)**
2. Amending Resolution 2024-105, authorizing the County Manager to apply for and accept funding from the State of New Jersey, Department of Children and Families for the Child Advocacy Development Grants - Treatment Services, Programs, Technology and Capital Improvement, to reflect an additional award amount of \$81,772.00 for a new total award of \$199,184.00; all other terms remain unchanged. **(Chairwoman Kimberly Palmieri-Mouded)**

DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICESLaura Scutari, Director

There was no question or comments by the Board.

1. Authorizing the County Manager to enter into a contract with Xtel, Mount Laurel, NJ, through ESCNJ 23/24-10 for the purpose of telecommunication services through December 31, 2024, in the amount not to exceed \$990,000.00. **(Chairwoman Kimberly Palmieri-Mouded)**

DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENTAmy Crisp Wagner, Deputy County Manager/Director

There was no question or comments by the Board.

1. Authorizing the County Manager to accept a Local Efficiency Achievement Program (LEAP) County Coordinator Fellowship Grant from the Department of Community Affairs, Division of Local Government Services, to enhance focus on and interest in the procurement of shared services opportunities across local units, in the amount not to exceed \$37,500.00. **(Chairwoman Kimberly Palmieri-Mouded)**
2. Authorizing the County Manager to approve the City of Plainfield's request, under the successful administration of the Community Development Block Program by the City, to use Program Income funds to help offset the cost of installing doors and window guard systems for 715-717 and 721-723 Arlington Avenue in the City of Plainfield, in an amount not to exceed \$35,000.00. **(Chairwoman Kimberly Palmieri-Mouded)**

DEPARTMENT OF ENGINEERING, PUBLIC WORKS & FACILITIES MANAGEMENT

Joseph Policay, Acting Director

There was no question or comments by the Board.

1. Amending Resolution 2020-857, a contract awarded through advertised public bidding in accordance with the Local Public Contracts Law N.J.S.A. 40A:11-1 et seq., to Foggia Trinity Electric, LLC, of Scotch Plains, New Jersey for Intersection Improvements – Rahway Avenue & Lamberts Mill Road, West Broad Street & Scotch Plains Avenue, Township of Westfield, County of Union, New Jersey. This Final Change Order Number 1 will decrease the contract amount by \$5,873.57 for a final contract amount not to exceed \$394,371.68. **(Commissioner Joseph C Bodek)**
2. Amending Resolution 2018-86, a contract with CME Associates of Parlin, New Jersey to provide additional Engineering Services for the Replacement of Lower Road Minor Bridge, Li-63, City of Linden in the amount of \$90,666.00 for a new contract amount not to exceed \$258,862.70. **(Commissioner Joseph C Bodek)**
3. Authorizing the County Manager to extend the contract pursuant to Resolution 2022-212, originally obtained through advertised public bidding with Magic Touch Construction Co., Inc., Keyport, NJ, for the purpose of Plumbing Services at various locations for the period of April 4, 2024 through April 3, 2026 in an amount not to exceed \$175,000.00. **(Commissioner Joseph C Bodek)**
4. Authorizing the County Manager to enter into a contract with H2M Architects & Engineers, Parsippany, NJ to provide Planning Consulting Services for the Union County Courthouse Complex through December 31, 2024, in an amount not to exceed \$165,000.00. **(Commissioner Joseph C Bodek)**
5. Authorizing the County Manager to enter into a contract with LiRo Program and Construction Management, Syosset, NY to provide Engineering Services for Solar Installation at the Galloping Hill Golf Course through December 31, 2024, in an amount not to exceed \$303,761.00. **(Commissioner Joseph C Bodek)**
6. Authorizing the Township of Berkeley Heights to close Springfield Avenue from 11:00 am to 5:00 pm on Sunday, June 9, 2024 to hold its annual Block Party. **(Commissioner Joseph C Bodek)**

7. Authorizing the Township of Berkeley Heights Rescue Squad to hang a banner across Springfield Avenue and Plainfield Avenue from April 1, 2024 to April 27, 2024 and October 1, 2024 to October 31, 2024 to advertise the Rescue Squad Membership Drive and Recruitment. **(Commissioner Joseph C Bodek)**

DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE

Bibi Taylor, Director

There was no question or comments by the Board.

1. Approving transfer of Current Fund Appropriations. **(Commissioner Rebecca Lynne Williams)**

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

Debbie-Ann Anderson, Director

There was no question or comments by the Board.

1. Amending Resolution 2023-945, a contract awarded pursuant to advertised public bidding (BA# 23-2021) in accordance with the Local Public Contracts Law, N.J.S.A. 40A:11-1 et seq., with Johnston Communication, Springfield, NJ, for the provision of electronic network equipment, security and cabling for various County Departments, to reflect an increase to the contract in the amount of \$6,399.30 for a new total amount not to exceed \$399,715.19. **(Commissioner Sergio Granados)**
2. Amending Resolution 2023-962, a contract with Primepoint, LLC, Mt. Holly, NJ for the provision of Payroll Services and Time and Labor Management Services, to include the Division of Social Services and the American Job Center, at both Elizabeth and Plainfield locations under the County's agreement for the period of December 1, 2023 through November 30, 2024 in an amount not to exceed \$17,730.00, for a total amount not to exceed \$207,330.00, with no other changes to the terms or conditions of the prior resolution or agreement. **(Chairwoman Kimberly Palmieri-Mouded)**
3. Approving waiver of the County's residency requirement for the Department of Human Services. **(Chairwoman Kimberly Palmieri-Mouded)**

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION

Victoria Durbin-Drake, Director

1. Authorizing the County Manager, through the Office of Cultural and Heritage Affairs, to reallocate funds received from the New Jersey Historical Commission to various Union County agencies and organizations as recommended and approved by the Cultural and Heritage Programs Advisory Board in the amount not to exceed \$55,200.00. **(Commissioner Bette Jane Kowalski)**

Commissioner Williams asked Director Durbin-Drake to elaborate on this item.

Director Durbin-Drake advised that this was a regrant relative to funding received by the County from the NJ Historical Commission. She noted that the application process was open to all and that monies would be allocated following a selection process.

2. Amending Resolution Number 2023-1052, a contract with Kemper Sports Management Inc. to enhance the scope of services for Union County Recreational Facilities, to add an addendum for the inclusion of management for both the Walter E. Ulrich Pool, Rahway and Wheeler Spray Park, Linden commencing April 1, 2024 to September 30, 2024 for a fee of \$3,000.00 for the four (4) active seasonal months of May-August 2024 in an amount not to exceed \$12,000.00 for a new total amount of \$7,635,776.00. **(Vice-Chairwoman Lourdes M. Leon)**

Commissioner Baker asked Director Durbin-Drake to elaborate on this item.

Director Durbin-Drake advised that this year the County had decided to contract Kemper Sports Management Inc. to manage the operations of Walter E. Ulrich Pool in Rahway as well as Wheeler Spray Park in Linden. She added that the vendor currently manager other County recreational facilities including the Warinanco Sports Center and various County golf courses. She noted that this contract would result in cost savings for the County and allow for a full-time presence on site during the active, seasonal months.

3. Authorizing the County Manager to enter into a contract with USA Architects of Somerville, New Jersey, to provide Professional Architectural Services related to the Warinanco Indoor Ice Rink, City of Elizabeth, County of Union, New Jersey in an amount not to exceed \$800,000.00. **(Vice-Chairwoman Lourdes M. Leon)**
4. Authorizing the County Manger to enter into a contract with Mast Construction of Little Falls, New Jersey, to provide Pre-Construction Management Services related to for the Warinanco Indoor Ice Rink, City of Elizabeth, County of Union, New Jersey in an amount not to exceed \$121,000.00. **(Vice-Chairwoman Lourdes M. Leon)**

Chairwoman Palmieri-Mouded asked for additional information related to Warinanco's Ice Rink, including an estimated time of completion for the project.

Director Durbin-Drake confirmed that Item Nos. 3 & 4 related to the new indoor ice rink slated for Warinanco Park. She added that adding this 2nd sheet of ice would allow for recreation year-round. She advised that if the project progressed as anticipated, the Department expected to have bid responses by October of 2024.

5. Authorizing the County Manager to award the proposed 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: Grove Contracting, LLC., Verona, NJ 07044 for the Ashbrook Golf Course Clubhouse Improvements in the amount not to exceed of \$4,107,000.00. **(Vice-Chairwoman Lourdes M. Leon)**

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

Dennis Burke, Acting Director

There was no question or comments by the Board.

1. Authorizing the County Manager to enter into a five (5) year lease agreement with Wireless Edge Towers II, LLC for radio antennas, equipment shelter, and stand-by generator effective May 1, 2024 through April 30, 2029 in the amount of \$14,400.00 for the first year with a 3% increase each subsequent year. **(Commissioner James Baker Jr)**

OFFICE OF THE COUNTY COUNSELBruce H. Bergen, County Counsel

1. Authorizing the sale of a quarter acre of former parkland in the County's Passaic River Park in Berkeley Heights, NJ, no longer needed for public use, by way of open public sale at auction and authorizing the County Manager to execute any and all necessary documents. **(Chairwoman Kimberly Palmieri-Mouded)**

Commissioner Williams asked Counsel Bergen to elaborate on this item.

Counsel Bergen advised that the County had acquired the quarter acre unintentionally as it was part of a County Park. He further advised that when the municipal road was vacated, half of the property was assigned to the County of Union, with the remaining half being assigned to the commercial enterprise next door. He added that the commercial enterprise next door was expected to bid on the property at auction and would be responsible for obtaining approvals from the state, the subdivision, and remediation efforts on site.

2. Appointing the Taylor Law Group, LLC, New Providence, NJ, to represent the County of Union, as special counsel concerning state licensing and related matters for Cornerstone Behavioral Health Hospital of Union County, in an amount not to exceed \$25,000.00. **(Chairwoman Kimberly Palmieri-Mouded)**

OFFICE OF THE COUNTY MANAGEREdward T. Oatman, County Manager

There was no question or comments by the Board.

1. Appointing Joseph Signorello Jr., as the Union County Fire Marshal for a three (3) year term commencing on March 28, 2024. **(Chairwoman Kimberly Palmieri-Mouded, Commissioner Alexander Mirabella, & The Entire Board)**

COMMISSIONER SPONSORED RESOLUTIONS2024 Board of County Commissioners, Chairwoman Kimberly Palmieri-Mouded

OFFICE OF THE CLERK OF THE BOARDJames Pellettiere, Clerk of the Board

There was no question or comments by the Board.

1. Sponsoring the Queen City Film & Television Workshop in the amount not to exceed \$750.00, in support of their Screen Talk events to be held on May 11, June 8, July 13 and August 10, 2024. **(Commissioner Rebecca Lynne Williams, & The Entire Board)**
2. Sponsoring the Elizabeth Portugal Day Committee Festivities to be held on May 31, June 2 and September 7, 2024, in an amount not to exceed \$4,000.00. **(Commissioner Rebecca Lynne Williams, & The Entire Board)**

3. Sponsoring Citizens Going Forward's Goodwill Festival 2024 to be held on June 1, 2024, in an amount not to exceed \$1,500.00. **(Commissioner Rebecca Lynne Williams, & The Entire Board)**
4. Sponsoring Berkeley Heights Business & Civic's Downtown Berkeley Heights Block Party to be held on June 9, 2024, in an amount not to exceed \$1,000.00. **(Commissioner Rebecca Lynne Williams, & The Entire Board)**
5. Sponsoring the Township of Scotch Plains' 2024 Independence Day Fireworks to be held on June 29, 2024, in an amount not to exceed \$4,000.00. **(Commissioner Rebecca Lynne Williams, & The Entire Board)**
6. Sponsoring the Queen City Film & Television Workshop 7th Annual Queen City Film Festival to be held on October 18-20, 2024, in an amount not to exceed \$1,000.00. **(Commissioner Rebecca Lynne Williams, & The Entire Board)**
7. Sponsoring the City of Linden's 71st Halloween Parade to be held on October 27, 2024, in an amount not to exceed \$4,000.00. **(Commissioner Rebecca Lynne Williams, & The Entire Board)**

LAUDATORY RESOLUTIONS & RESOLUTIONS OF CONDOLENCE

1. Recognizing the month of April 2024 as Alcohol Awareness Month throughout the County of Union **(Commissioner James Baker Jr, & The Entire Board)**
2. Recognizing Giovanni Lavorato for his years of service in Linden and Union County. **(Commissioner Joseph C Bodek, & The Entire Board)**
3. Offering this Board's deepest condolences to the family of Karen People during their time of sorrow. **(Commissioner Michèle S. Delisfort, & The Entire Board)**
4. Offering this Board's deepest condolences to the family of Michael Yesenko during their time of sorrow. **(Commissioner Bette Jane Kowalski, & The Entire Board)**
5. Congratulating the following individuals from the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 80, on obtaining the rank of Eagle Scout: Owen Cumiskey, Owen Giblin, Jack Goodwin, Daniel Kennedy, Miles Murphy, Aiden Nester, EJ Orr & Evan Surmay. **(Commissioner Bette Jane Kowalski, & The Entire Board)**
6. Offering this Board's deepest condolences to the family of Carrie Nichols during their time of sorrow. **(Commissioner Rebecca Lynne Williams, & The Entire Board)**
7. Offering this Board's deepest condolences to the family of Abelardo Gonzalez Tarrago during their time of sorrow. **(Vice-Chairwoman Lourdes M. Leon, & The Entire Board)**
8. Recognizing the month of April 2024 as Sexual Assault Awareness Month (SAAM) throughout the County of Union. **(Chairwoman Kimberly Palmieri-Moudeed, Commissioner Sergio Granados, & The Entire Board)**

9. Recognizing the month of April 2024 as "Autism Acceptance Month" (AAM) throughout the County of Union and further recognizing April 2, 2024 as 'Wear Blue Day' in celebration of Autism Acceptance Month while lighting the Union County Administration Building Blue from April 1st through April 7th. **(Chairwoman Kimberly Palmieri-Mouded, & The Entire Board)**
10. Offering this Board's deepest sympathies to the family of Mercedes Reinoso during their time of sorrow. **(Chairwoman Kimberly Palmieri-Mouded, Commissioner Sergio Granados, & The Entire Board)**
11. Resolution supporting New Jersey Senate Bill SCR-93, sponsored by NJ Senator M. Teresa Ruiz, which urges the Biden Administration and the United States Congress to enact the "Poverty Line Act of 2023" and raise the threshold for the federal poverty level by accounting for regional cost-of-living differences. **(Chairwoman Kimberly Palmieri-Mouded, & The Entire Board)**
12. Congratulating the 2024 Unity Award recipients upon being honored by the Union County Human Relations Commission. **(Chairwoman Kimberly Palmieri-Mouded, & The Entire Board)**

ADJOURNMENT

Chairwoman Palmieri-Mouded asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. On a motion made by Commissioner Williams and seconded by Commissioner Baker roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative, with Commissioner Mirabella absent.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:11 P.M.

**UNION COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
2024 MEETING SCHEDULE**

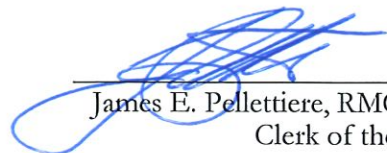
**REORGANIZATION MEETING - THURSDAY, JANUARY 4, 2024 at 6:00 PM
Union County Courthouse- 2 Broad Street. Elizabeth**

AGENDA SETTING SESSION

Thursday, January 25, 2024
 Wednesday, February 7, 2024
 Wednesday, February 21, 2024
 Wednesday, March 13, 2024
 Wednesday, March 27, 2024
 Wednesday, April 10, 2024
 Wednesday, April 24, 2024
 Wednesday, May 8, 2024
 Wednesday, May 22, 2024
 Wednesday, June 5, 2024
 Wednesday, June 19, 2024
 Wednesday, July 17, 2024
 Wednesday, August 14, 2024
 Wednesday, September 11, 2024
 Wednesday, September 25, 2024
 Wednesday, October 9, 2024
 Wednesday, October 23, 2024
 Wednesday, November 13, 2024
 Wednesday, December 4, 2024
 Wednesday, December 18, 2024

REGULAR MEETINGS

Thursday, January 25, 2024
 Wednesday, February 7, 2024
 Wednesday, February 21, 2024
 Wednesday, March 13, 2024
 Wednesday, March 27, 2024
 Wednesday, April 10, 2024
 Wednesday, April 24, 2024
 Wednesday, May 8, 2024
 Wednesday, May 22, 2024
 Wednesday, June 5, 2024
 Wednesday, June 19, 2024
 Wednesday, July 17, 2024
 Wednesday, August 14, 2024
 Wednesday, Sept. 11, 2024
 Wednesday, Sept. 25, 2024
 Wednesday, October 9, 2024
 Wednesday, October 23, 2024
 Wednesday, Nov. 13, 2024
 Wednesday, Dec. 4, 2024
 Wednesday, Dec. 18, 2024



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

Please note that the County Commissioners’ meetings, with the exception of the January 25, 2024 meetings, are to be regularly held on Wednesday evenings. These meetings 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. Persons requiring a sign language interpreter should contact the Office of the Clerk of the Board at 908-527-4140.