

## UNION COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

THURSDAY, MARCH 13, 2024  
AGENDA SETTING MEETING MINUTES

### CALL TO ORDER

Chairwoman Palmieri-Mouded presided over the meeting and called the meeting to order at 6:03 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, 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.

### OFFICE OF THE UNION COUNTY SHERIFF

Peter Corvelli, Sheriff

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There was no question or comments by the Board.

1. Authorizing the County Manager to enter into a contract with Paramus Ford, Inc. pursuant to the Educational Services Commission of NJ (formerly known as Middlesex Regional-#65MCESCCPS), Somerset County (#2-SOCCP), and Cranford Police CoOp (#47-CPCPS) cooperatives for the purchases of six (6) vans for the Union County Sheriff's Office in the amount of not to exceed \$346,173.67.  
(Commissioner James Baker Jr)

### OFFICE OF THE UNION COUNTY SURROGATE

Christopher E. Hudak, Esq., Surrogate

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There was no question or comments by the Board.

1. Amending Resolution 2023-925, 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 \$14,625.00 for a new total amount not to exceed \$1,031,048.14. **(Chairwoman Kimberly Palmieri-Mouded)**

Surrogate Hudak advised that this would be used to purchase a video conferencing system for Surrogate Court.

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

Amy Crisp Wagner, Deputy County Manager/Director

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There was no question or comments by the Board.

1. Authorizing the County Manager to utilize the County's option to extend the contract with Johnston Communications, Springfield, NJ, pursuant to Resolution 2022-224, originally obtained through advertised public bidding, (BA# UCCP 8-2022) for an additional twenty-four (24) months for the purpose of providing IT Infrastructure, Fiber Optic Network Advanced Applications and Services for all County buildings and County parks beginning March 18, 2024 through March 17, 2026 with no change in the contract amount. **(Chairwoman Kimberly Palmieri-Mouded)**
2. Authorizing the County Manager to apply for and enter into agreement with the NJ Department of Community Affairs (NJDCA) to secure grant funding for the Local Recreation Improvement Grant (LRIG), for a total project amount of \$100,000, with no County match required, for a twelve (12) month project period beginning June 1, 2024 through May 31, 2025. **(Chairwoman Kimberly Palmieri-Mouded)**

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

Joseph Policay, Acting Director

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1. Authorizing the County Manager to enter into a contract with Pennoni Associates Inc. of Newark, New Jersey to provide professional services for Emergency Debris Management Plan (EDMP) and Temporary Debris Management Area (TDMA) in various locations in Union County for a contract amount not to exceed \$19,500.00. **(Commissioner Joseph C Bodek)**
2. Amending Resolution 2024-79, a contract with French & Parrello Associates of Wall Township, New Jersey to provide On-Call MEP Engineering Services, to reflect an increase to the contract in the amount of \$8,700.00 for a new contract amount not to exceed \$13,700.00. **(Commissioner Joseph C Bodek)**
3. Authorizing the County Manager to enter into a contract with French & Parrello Associates (FPA), Wall, New Jersey to provide HVAC Engineering and Consulting Services commencing on or about March 30, 2024 through approximately May 14, 2025 in an amount not to exceed \$219,900.00. **(Commissioner Joseph C Bodek)**

4. Authorizing aerial dispensing operation county-wide by the Bureau of Mosquito Control. **(Commissioner Joseph C Bodek)**

Commissioner Mirabella asked Acting Director Policay to elaborate on this item.

Acting Director Policay advised that aerial dispensing was only used as needed. He noted that aerial dispensing had been used during 2019 to combat the discovery of Easter Equine Encephalitis near Berkeley Heights.

5. Authorizing the Township of Berkeley Heights to hang a banner on Springfield Avenue from May 13, 2024 to June 10, 2024 to advertise the Berkley Heights Block Party on June 9, 2024. **(Commissioner Joseph C Bodek)**
6. Authorizing the Township of Berkeley Heights (Kimberly Anne Wilson Foundation) to hang a banner on Springfield Avenue from August 12, 2024 to September 19, 2024 to promote the Kimberly Anne Wilson Foundation 5K. **(Commissioner Joseph C Bodek)**
7. Authorizing the Township of Berkeley Heights to hang a banner across Springfield Avenue to promote Our House 4 Mile Run from April 28, 2024 to May 12, 2024. **(Commissioner Joseph C Bodek)**
8. Authorizing the Township of Clark to hang a banner from May 22, 2024 to June 24, 2024 on Raritan Road advertising the Rock the Block Street Fair and to close a portion of Westfield Avenue on June 23, 2024 from 10:00 am to 6:00 pm for the Rock the Block Street Fair. **(Commissioner Joseph C Bodek)**
9. Authorizing the Township of Springfield to hang a banner from June 3, 2024 to July 8, 2024 on South Springfield Avenue and Mountain Avenue to advertise the Township's 4th of July Festivities and to close Meisel Avenue on July 4, 2024 from 3:00 pm to 11:00 pm for the July Festivities with a rain date the next clear day. **(Commissioner Joseph C Bodek)**

#### DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE

Bibi Taylor, Director

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There was no question or comments by the Board.

1. Authorizing the County Manager to enter into a contract with FSL Public Finance, Reading, PA, to provide financial advisory services in connection with special projects for the period of January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2024 in the amount not to exceed \$50,000.00. **(Chairwoman Kimberly Palmieri-Mouded)**

#### DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

Debbie-Ann Anderson, Director

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There was no question or comments by the Board.

1. Amending Resolution 2023-995 to reflect adjustments to awards and an overall decrease in the original Area Plan Contract Spending Plan in the amount of

\$28,146.79 to reflect a new total of not to exceed \$5,605,811.21 with no other changes to the terms or conditions. **(Vice-Chairwoman Lourdes M. Leon)**

#### DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION

Victoria Durbin-Drake, Director

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There was no question or comments by the Board.

1. Authorizing the County Manager to authorize the Office of Cultural and Heritage Affairs to apply for private and public funding. **(Commissioner Bette Jane Kowalski)**
2. Authorizing the County Manager to award the proposed contract obtained through advertised public bidding (BA# 5-2024) in accordance with the Local Public Contracts Law, NJSA 40A:11-1 et seq: Department of Parks and Recreation: Lake Management Sciences of Branchville, NJ, for the purpose of providing a Aquatic Management Program for the period beginning upon the execution of the contract through December 31, 2025 in an amount not to exceed \$240,048.00, with an option to extend for one additional 24 month period. **(Vice-Chairwoman Lourdes M. Leon)**
3. Authorizing the County Manager through the Office of Cultural and Heritage Affairs, to reallocate funds received from the New Jersey State Council on the Arts to the following 44 Union County agencies and organizations as recommended and approved by the Cultural and Heritage Programs Advisory Board in the amount not exceed \$300,000.00. **(Commissioner Bette Jane Kowalski)**
4. Authorizing the County Manager to apply for and execute a grant from the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs for development, capital, and operating expenses for repairs to the Clubhouse at the Ash Brook Golf Course and the creation of an indoor skating rink at Warinanco Park in the amount of \$13,750,000.00. **(Vice-Chairwoman Lourdes M. Leon)**
5. Authorizing the County Manager to apply for and execute a grant from the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs for dredging and pollution remediation at the Clark Reservoir in the amount of \$250,000.00. **(Vice-Chairwoman Lourdes M. Leon)**
6. Authorizing the County Manager to apply for and execute a grant from the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs for dredging, pollution remediation and park development at the Clark Reservoir in the amount of \$20,000,000.00. **(Vice-Chairwoman Lourdes M. Leon)**

#### DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

Dennis Burke, Acting Director

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1. Amending Resolution 2024-68, a contract with Spec Rescue International, Virginia Beach, Virginia, to provide exercise support and training to members of the Metro Urban Search and Rescue (MUSAR) Task Force from the Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) Region, to reflect a change in the account number only. **(Commissioner James Baker Jr)**

2. Authorizing the County Manager to enter into a ten (10) year Shared Services Agreement with the Township of Springfield for 911 Police, Fire and EMS Dispatching Services, commencing April 1, 2024 through March 31, 2034 in the amount of \$178,385.10 for the first year, with a 2% increase January 1st of each subsequent calendar year. **(Commissioner James Baker Jr)**

Vice-Chairwoman Leon noted that she was pleased to see another Township joining the County's dispatch services.

Acting Director Burke advised that the Township of Springfield would once again be joining this shared service after 2 ½ years.

#### OFFICE OF THE COUNTY COUNSEL

Bruce H. Bergen, County Counsel

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There was no question or comments by the Board.

1. Authorizing the County Manager to enter into a contract with Genova Burns LLC, Newark NJ, as Litigation Counsel for Union County Clerk Joanne Rajoppi in the matter of Andy Kim et al v. Union County, et al in an amount not to exceed \$20,000.00 **(Chairwoman Kimberly Palmieri-Mouded)**
2. Appointing Taylor Law Group, LLC , New Providence, NJ, to represent the County of Union as special counsel providing general counsel services concerning current and future leasing of County cell towers in an amount not to exceed \$15,000.00. **(Chairwoman Kimberly Palmieri-Mouded)**

#### OFFICE OF THE COUNTY MANAGER

Edward Oatman, County Manager

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1. Authorizing a 2024 MOU between the County of Union and Union College of Union County for an American Rescue Plan Act grant award to help fund an existing Food Insecurity Program that serves the nutritional needs of the College's most needy full-time students in the amount of \$250,000.00 for the period of July 1, 2024 through December 31, 2024. **(Chairwoman Kimberly Palmieri-Mouded)**

Chairwoman Palmieri-Mouded called upon Dr. Demond Hargrove, VP of Student Development at Union College, and the recipient of the 12<sup>th</sup> annual Chester Holmes Humanitarian Award, to speak on this item.

Dr. Demond Hargrove thanked the County of Union and the Board of County Commissioners for their generosity on behalf of Union College of Union County and President Dr. Margaret McMenamin. He noted that at the start of the COVID-19 pandemic he had the opportunity to meet County Manager Edward Oatman, noting the many resources provided by the County including emergency food distribution drives as well as COVID-19 testing and vaccine services. He thanked the County of Union for generously making these monies available for students in need to provide pantry services as well as food packages and grub passes for the college cafeteria. He noted the significant impact these resources would have on the student population at Union College.

Chairwoman Palmieri-Mouded recognized the tremendous need of college students, noting that many Union College students had received meal plans throughout elementary, middle, and high school. She added that the County was happy to be able to provide this resource and support the students of Union College.

#### COMMISSIONER SPONSORED RESOLUTIONS

2024 County Commissioners, Chairwoman Kimberly Palmieri-Mouded

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#### OFFICE OF THE CLERK OF THE BOARD

James Pelletiere, Clerk of the Board

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1. Appointing Jill Schlossberg to the Human Services Advisory Council (HSAC) for a three-year term beginning January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2026. **(Commissioner Sergio Granados)**
2. Appointing the following member to the Union County Cultural & Heritage Advisory Board: Shirley Gazsi. **(Commissioner Bette Jane Kowalski)**
3. Appointing Elizabeth A. Fennik to the Advisory Council on Aging for a three-year term beginning January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2026. **(Vice-Chairwoman Lourdes M. Leon)**
4. Appointing Gina Iosim (Justice Involved Services) to the Mental Health Board for a three-year term beginning January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2026. **(Chairwoman Kimberly Palmieri-Mouded)**

#### LAUDATORY RESOLUTIONS & RESOLUTIONS OF CONDOLENCE

1. Congratulating the following honorees of the Appreciation Award of the Annual Women's High Tea Women's History Month Celebration on Saturday, March 16th, 2024: Marilyn Coplan, Renée Marino, Antoinette Modrak and Lisa Ormon; further recognizing the many contributions each of the honorees have provided the City of Linden. **(Commissioner Joseph C Bodek, & The Entire Board)**
2. Congratulating Ms. Carvalho's 4th Grade class at Grover Cleveland Elementary School for achieving an impressive 85% average on their iReady Challenge math and reading lessons. **(Commissioner James Baker Jr, & The Entire Board)**
3. Congratulating Resolve Community Counseling Center on their 50th Anniversary providing essential mental health and counseling services as we celebrate Mental Health Awareness Month in May 2024. **(Commissioner Alexander Mirabella, & The Entire Board)**
4. Congratulating The Elizabeth High School Boys Basketball Team upon winning the 2024 State Championship Tournament. **(Vice-Chairwoman Lourdes M. Leon, Commissioner Sergio Granados, & The Entire Board)**
5. Celebrating the 10th Anniversary of the China Ministry of Education's establishment of Wenzhou-Kean University on Monday, March 25, 2024. **(Commissioner Alexander Mirabella, & The Entire Board)**

6. Congratulating the Westfield High School Boys Swim Team on their recent accomplishment at the IHSAA High School State Championship, making it back-to-back years as State Champions. **(Chairwoman Kimberly Palmieri-MouDED, & The Entire Board)**
7. Congratulating Elizabeth Public Schools Athletic Director Ben Candelino on his induction to the New Jersey State Interscholastic Athletic Association (NJSIAA) Hall of Fame Class of 2024. **(Chairwoman Kimberly Palmieri-MouDED, & The Entire Board)**
8. Offering the Board's deepest condolences to the Union County Sheriff's K9 Unit for the passing of retired K9 Marco on March 8, 2024. **(Chairwoman Kimberly Palmieri-MouDED, & The Entire Board)**

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

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

The meeting was adjourned at 6:15 P.M.

## UNION COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS 2024 MEETING SCHEDULE

**REORGANIZATION MEETING - THURSDAY, JANUARY 4, 2024 at 6:00 PM**

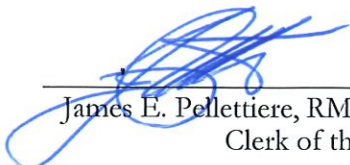
**Union County Courthouse- 2 Broad Street. Elizabeth**

### 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

  
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 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, 6<sup>th</sup> 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.