

UNION COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

THURSDAY, APRIL 10, 2024
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

Chairwoman Palmieri-Mouded presided over the meeting and called the meeting to order at 6:17 P.M.

ROLL CALL

Roll call showed Chairwoman Kimberly Palmieri-Mouded, 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, with Vice-Chairwoman Lourdes M. Leon 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 called for a motion to approve the Communications. On a motion made by Commissioner Mirabella and seconded by Commissioner Kowalski, roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative, with Vice-Chairwoman Leon absent.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

To the extent known, the following items will be discussed in Executive Session:

- 1) Attorney-Client privileged communication and/or discussions relative to negotiations concerning the Clark Reservoir; and
- 2) Attorney-Client privileged communication and/or discussions relative to labor negotiations status concerning Union County jail personnel.

County Counsel Bergen stated that pursuant to provisions of the Open Public Meetings Act, a public body could enter into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing certain enumerated subjects.

He stated that the Board wished to enter into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing 1) Attorney-Client privileged communication and/or discussions relative to negotiations concerning the Clark Reservoir; and 2) Attorney-Client privileged communication and/or discussions relative to labor negotiations status concerning Union County jail personnel.

He stated that the minutes of the Executive Session would be separated from the minutes of the Open Public Session and that the minutes of the Executive Session, redacted as appropriate and necessary, would be available in approximately 30 days. He stated that the Clerk of the Board would retain the original minutes until such time as the confidential limitations have been removed, at which time they shall be made available.

He stated that upon affirmative vote of the majority of the members present, the Board could enter Executive Session and upon the Board's return may or may not take formal action on the matters discussed.

Chairwoman Palmieri-Mouded called for a motion to enter into Executive Session. On a motion made by Commissioner Mirabella and seconded by Commissioner Delisfort, roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative, with Vice-Chairwoman Leon absent.

Chairwoman Palmieri-Mouded called for a motion to return from Executive Session. On a motion made by Commissioner Granados and seconded by Commissioner Williams, roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative, with Vice-Chairwoman Leon absent.

County Counsel Bergen advised that he had nothing to report following Executive Session.

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. 2024-289, he asked if drones were being used by the vendor. Relative to Reso No. 2024-291, he inquired about the County's interest in the cited properties and why a particular parcel had not been included. He asked for additional information relative to Reso Nos. 2024-293 through 2024-296. Relative to Reso No. 2024-300, he asked about the pre-application process for this project. Relative to Reso No. 2024-303, he made comments regarding former Prosecutor Ruotolo and asked why the Office of Attorney General was listed on this

lawsuit. Relative to Reso No. 2024-304, he inquired about the County's need for a Qualified Purchasing Agent.

Relative to Reso No. 2024-289, County Manager Oatman advised that he was unsure whether or not the vendor was utilizing drones for the project.

Relative to Reso No. 2024-291, County Manager Oatman advised that the owner was interested in selling the cited parcels.

Relative to Reso Nos. 2024-293, Director Taylor advised that this was the annual COLA resolution which provided the County with maximum financial, adding that it would grant an additional 1% in the levy according to the 1977 CAP, while not exceeding the 2010 CAP when the County's Budget is prepared. She further advised that in this year and prior year's budgets, the County has not utilized the COLA 1% levy and had amassed over \$5,000,000 which has allowed the County to maintain a 0% tax increase for several years.

Relative to Reso No. 2024-294 & 2024-295, Director Taylor advised that these items related to the Constitutional Offices, adding that their operating budgets were being supplemented with ARPA funding in order to acquire public safety equipment. She advised that even though ARPA funding was being utilized giving the impression that the Offices were exceeding their CAP, these resolutions were being adopted for these one-time expenditures to allow them to utilize the funds. She added that these expenses did not have an effect on the overall levy because of the revenue being received.

Relative to Reso No. 2024-296, Director Taylor advised that this item related to the introduction of the County's 2024 Annual Budget with a 1.75% increase following several years of a 0% increase.

Relative to Reso No. 2024-300, County Manager Oatman advised that consultants were required in order to produce plans to satisfy the DEP's pre-application process.

Relative to Reso No. 2024-303, Counsel Bergen advised that litigation in this matter was ongoing and because the County was listed in the lawsuit, they were obligated to secure counsel.

County Manager Oatman advised that the Union County Prosecutor was appointed by the Governor of NJ.

Relative to Reso No. 2024-304, County Manager Oatman advised that Union County would be providing a QPA to Hudson County, adding that Administrative Services Director Scutari was the County's QPA, not Director Taylor.

Patrick Jones, of Elizabeth, expressed his concern over unruly motorcycles and ATVs disregarding posted speed limits and endangering the safety of pedestrians. He advised that he had witnessed a large group of such motorists, on more than one occasion, operating their vehicles with complete disregard for pedestrians and the laws of the road.

County Manager Oatman asked Mr. Jones to provide his contact information to Clerk of the Board Pellettiere, adding that he would be put in touch with the County's Public Safety Director.

There were no additional questions or comments.

RESOLUTIONS FOR ADOPTION

The following resolutions are being offered for adoption:

2024-288 COMMISSIONER JOSEPH C BODEK: Authorizing the County Manager to extend the contract pursuant to Resolution 2022-296, originally obtained through advertised public bidding (BA# 13-2022) with Maffey's Security Group, Elizabeth, NJ for the purpose of providing Locksmith Services & Locking Hardware for twenty-four (24) consecutive months from April 21, 2024 through April 20, 2026 in an amount not to exceed \$217,150.00.

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 Vice-Chairwoman Leon absent.

2024-289 COMMISSIONER JOSEPH C BODEK: Authorizing the County Manager to enter into a contract with RSC Architects, Hackensack, New Jersey to provide Engineering and Consulting Services for the Courthouse Tower Roof Repair Project in an amount not to exceed \$244,000.00.

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 Vice-Chairwoman Leon absent.

2024-290 COMMISSIONER SERGIO GRANADOS: Amending Resolution 2023-1090 authorizing the 2024 Social Services for the Homeless (SSH) Spending Plan, to reflect a six (6) month extension through December 31, 2024; and to increase the Spending Plan in the amount of \$486,700.00 for a new total not to exceed \$973,400.00.

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 Vice-Chairwoman Leon absent.

2024-291 COMMISSIONER SERGIO GRANADOS: Authorizing the County Manager to enter into a contract, on behalf of the Open Space, Recreation and Historic Preservation Trust Fund, with Sterling DiSanto & Associates, Somerville, New Jersey, for the purpose of providing appraisal services for the property of 1650, 1660, 1670 Raritan Road, Scotch Plains, NJ, Block 14001, Lots 5, 6, 7 in an amount not to exceed \$7,000.00.

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 Vice-Chairwoman Leon absent.

2024-292 COMMISSIONER SERGIO GRANADOS: Appointing Sarah Webb to the Human Services Advisory Council (HSAC) to an unexpired term ending on December 31, 2024.

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 Vice-Chairwoman Leon absent.

2024-293 COMMISSIONER REBECCA LYNNE WILLIAMS: Exceeding the County tax levy limit and to establish a CAP Bank (N.J.S.A. 40A: 4-45.14).

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 Vice-Chairwoman Leon absent.

2024-294 COMMISSIONER REBECCA LYNNE WILLIAMS: Authorizing the Office of the County Prosecutor to exceed the County Entity Budget CAP (P.L., 2015, c.249)

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 Vice-Chairwoman Leon absent.

2024-295 COMMISSIONER REBECCA LYNNE WILLIAMS: Authorizing the Office of the Sheriff to exceed the County Entity Budget CAP (P.L., 2015, c.249).

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 Vice-Chairwoman Leon absent.

2024-296 COMMISSIONER REBECCA LYNNE WILLIAMS: Introducing and Approving the Annual Budget of the County of Union for the Fiscal Year 2024.

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 Vice-Chairwoman Leon absent.

2024-297 VICE-CHAIRWOMAN LOURDES M. LEON: Authorizing the County Manager to award a contract obtained through advertised public bidding (BA# 15-2024) in accordance with the Local Public Contracts Law, NJSA 40A:11-1 et seq; Parks & Recreation: Off Management, Roselle NJ, for the purpose of providing a Concession at Watchung Loop Snack Stand Lot 2, for a period of 36 months with an option to extend for an additional 24 months, in the amount of \$3,780.00 (Revenue Producing).

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 Vice-Chairwoman Leon absent.

2024-298 VICE-CHAIRWOMAN LOURDES M. LEON: Authorizing the County Manger to enter into a contract with French and Parrello, Wall, New Jersey, to provide Site

Engineering Services related to for the Warinanco Indoor Ice Rink, City of Elizabeth, County of Union, New Jersey in an amount not to exceed \$235,630.00.

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 Vice-Chairwoman Leon absent.

2024-299 VICE-CHAIRWOMAN LOURDES M. LEON: Authorizing the County Manager to award a contract obtained through advertised public bidding (BA# 18-2024) in accordance with the Local Public Contracts Law, NJSA 40A:11-1 et seq: Parks & Recreation: DCRS, Creamridge, NJ, for the purpose of providing deer carcass removal and disposal services, for a twenty-four (24) month period with a twenty-four (24) month extension option, in the amount not to exceed \$33,000.00.

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 Vice-Chairwoman Leon absent.

2024-300 VICE-CHAIRWOMAN LOURDES M. LEON: Support of the Union County Board of County Commissioners for the state house commission pre-application to the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection for diversion of Parkland to construct an indoor skating rink in Warinanco Park.

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 Vice-Chairwoman Leon absent.

2024-301 CHAIRWOMAN KIMBERLY PALMIERI-MOUEDED: Authorizing the County Manager to affirm the County of Union's compliance with the Governing Body Certification of Compliance with the United States Equal Employment Opportunity Commission's "Enforcement Guidance on the Consideration of Arrest and Conviction Records in Employment Decisions Under Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964" in accordance with State law, when submitting the budget for approval, the County certifies that our hiring practices comply with the EEOC requirements.

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 Vice-Chairwoman Leon absent.

2024-302 CHAIRWOMAN KIMBERLY PALMIERI-MOUEDED: Amending Resolution 2024-89, a contract with Community Access Unlimited, Elizabeth NJ for Supportive Services for clients of the American Job Center, to extend the contract for a period of two (2) months through May 31, 2024 and increase the award by an amount not to exceed \$9,000.00 for a new total amount not to exceed \$44,000.00; all other contract terms remain unchanged.

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 Vice-Chairwoman Leon absent.

2024-303 CHAIRWOMAN KIMBERLY PALMIERI-MOUEDED: Amending Resolution Number 2023-144 to increase the appropriation amount to Chasan, Lamparello, Mallon & Campuzzo, P.C. of Secaucus, NJ in the matter entitled Maria Reynolds-Jerussi v. NJ Office of the Attorney General, et als. by an additional amount not to exceed \$30,000.00 for a total contract amount not to exceed \$100,000.00.

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 Vice-Chairwoman Leon absent.

2024-304 CHAIRWOMAN KIMBERLY PALMIERI-MOUEDED: Authorizing the County Manager to enter into a shared services agreement by and between the County of Union and the County of Hudson for the sharing of a Qualified Purchasing Agent on a part-time basis beginning April 1, 2024 through June 30, 2024.

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 Vice-Chairwoman Leon absent.

LAUDATORY RESOLUTIONS AND RESOLUTIONS OF CONDOLENCE

2024-305 COMMISSIONER JAMES BAKER JR, & THE ENTIRE BOARD: Honoring Julian Robles of Elizabeth Municipal Alliance Program on receiving the 2024 County Volunteer of the Year Award at the upcoming LACADA Volunteer of the Year Recognition Ceremony on April 23, 2024.

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 Vice-Chairwoman Leon absent.

2024-306 COMMISSIONER JAMES BAKER JR: Proclaiming April 14-20, 2024 as National Public Safety Telecommunications Week throughout Union County, in honor of the men and women whose diligence and professionalism keep our citizens safe.

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 Vice-Chairwoman Leon absent.

2024-307 COMMISSIONER JAMES BAKER JR, & THE ENTIRE BOARD: Congratulating Linda Flores Tober, Executive Director of the Elizabeth Coalition to House the Homeless, who is retiring after 34 years of dedicated service.

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 Vice-Chairwoman Leon absent.

2024-308 COMMISSIONER BETTE JANE KOWALSKI, & THE ENTIRE BOARD: Recognizing April 2024 as National Poetry Month throughout Union County; encouraging booksellers, libraries, poets, publishers, and schools to promote the importance of poetry and its significance to society and culture.

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 Vice-Chairwoman Leon absent.

2024-309 COMMISSIONER ALEXANDER MIRABELLA, & THE ENTIRE BOARD: Congratulating the Scotch Plains Fanwood UNICO as they celebrate their 50th anniversary on Saturday, April 13, 2024.

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 Vice-Chairwoman Leon absent.

2024-310 CHAIRWOMAN KIMBERLY PALMIERI-MOUDED, & THE ENTIRE BOARD: Recognizing local Westfield and Scotch Plains-Fanwood kids who are set to be featured in Foot Locker's Be Seen Campaign as part of Autism Acceptance Month.

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 Vice-Chairwoman Leon absent.

2024-311 CHAIRWOMAN KIMBERLY PALMIERI-MOUDED, COMMISSIONER SERGIO GRANADOS, & THE ENTIRE BOARD: Congratulating Union County employee Shioban Dominguez upon being selected by the NJ Child Support Council for the 2023 County Welfare Agency (CWA) Worker of the Year Award.

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 Vice-Chairwoman Leon absent.

COMMISSIONER REPORTS AND COMMENTS

Commissioner Bodek announced that the County's Parks and Recreation Department was seeking seasonal staff for the 2024 Summer season, noting an upcoming job fair on April 13th at Warinanco Sports Center. He advised that staff was needed to work at Walter E. Ulrich Pool in Rahway and Wheeler Spray Park in Linden, adding that the Department was looking for lifeguards, pool attendants, spray park attendants and park maintenance laborers. He encouraged interested residents to visit the County's website for additional information.

Commissioner Delisfort announced that nominations for the County's 2024 SHERO were now open. She noted that the SHERO Awards aimed to recognize remarkable women in Union County who epitomize the principles of equity, diversity and inclusion while driving positive change in Union County. She advised that the deadline for nominations was May 3rd.

Commissioner Mirabella spoke relative to his attendance of a Cranford baseball game last Thursday. He noted that this game was special because it marked baseball coach, Dennis McCaffrey's 500th career win, adding that Coach McCaffrey's son Dennis belted a walk off home run to win the game against New Providence. He commended Coach

McCaffrey for his success, noting his desire to present a resolution to him at a later meeting to honor this tremendous achievement.

Commissioner Kowalski spoke relative to her recent attendance of the Eagle Scouts Troop 80 Honor Ceremony, adding that it was one of the largest ceremonies that she had ever attended. She noted that she was inspired by the quality, eloquence, and performance of those being honored. On another note, she announced the Street Smart NJ Pedestrian Safety Education Campaign in the Borough of Roselle. She advised that this campaign would aim to enhance safety measures and improvements throughout the County of Union.

Commissioner Williams noted her recent attendance to Plainfield High School's 2024 National Honor Society Ceremony. She recognized Plainfield Superintendent Rashon Hasan, adding that she was grateful for the opportunity to attend and show the Board's support of these exemplary students. On another note, she announced an upcoming roundtable discussion entitled Alternative Responses for an Inclusive Community, taking place on April 30th at Kean University. She advised that the panel would include partners from law enforcement and social services to discuss community programs and services aimed at enhancing response, support and diversion.

Commissioner Granados had no comments.

Chairwoman Palmieri-Mouded announced the launch of the Union County Community Outreach Program. She noted that this program aimed at strengthening community engagement and providing vital resources to residents by connecting them to County resources and essential services. She advised that Community Outreach Team members would be wearing distinctive safety vests and would be active throughout the various communities in Union County Monday through Saturday. She encouraged residents to engage with these teams and provide feedback to help shape future initiatives and build a more resilient community. On another note, she spoke relative to April being Sexual Assault Awareness Month, reminding residents that supportive resources for sexual assault victims were available through the Union County Rape Crisis Center. She also spoke relative to the recent solar eclipse on April 8, 2024, noting that Trailside Nature and Science Center hosted a weekend of wonder programming related to said. To close, she noted her recent visit to Liberty Hall Museum. She encouraged residents to visit the spectacular museum, adding that the Board was proud to support these and other local organizations through grant funding like the History, Education, Arts Reaching Thousands (HEART) Grant Program.

ADJOURNMENT

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 eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative, with Vice-Chairwoman Leon absent.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:35 P.M.

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

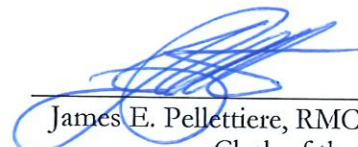
**REORGANIZATION MEETING - THURSDAY, JANUARY 4, 2024 at 6:00 PM
Union County Courthouse- 2 Broad Street. Elizabeth**

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
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- 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.