

## UNION COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2026  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

### CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Bodek presided over the meeting and called the meeting to order at 6:38 PM.

### ROLL CALL

Roll call showed Chairman Joseph C. Bodek, Vice-Chair Rebecca Williams, Commissioner James E. Baker, Jr., Commissioner Michèle Delisfort, Chairwoman Lourdes Leon, Commissioner Kimberly Palmieri-Mouded, Commissioner Stanley Neron, and Commissioner Joseph Signorello III 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 James E. 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

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On a motion made by Commissioner Leon and seconded by Commissioner Baker, roll call showed eight members voted in the affirmative, with Commissioner Mirabella absent.

Note and File

### MINUTES FOR APPROVAL

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On a motion made by Commissioner Signorello and seconded by Commissioner Neron, roll call showed eight members voted in the affirmative, with Commissioner Mirabella absent.

1. January 1, 2026 - Installation Ceremony and Re-Organizational Meeting
2. January 29, 2026 - Agenda Setting Session

## 3. January 29, 2026 - Regular Meeting

**ORDINANCE FOR ADOPTION**

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Clerk of the Board Pellettiere read Ordinance 864-2026 by title.

**864-2026 AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND “THE LAWS OF UNION COUNTY: ADMINISTRATIVE CODE AND POLICIES AND GENERAL LEGISLATION” BY AMENDING PART II-GENERAL LEGISLATION: CHAPTER 107, PARKS AND RECREATION, ARTICLE IV, FEES FOR RECREATION FACILITIES.**

**PUBLIC HEARING**

The meeting was opened for public comment on Ordinance number 864-2026 only.

Bruce Paterson, of Garwood, asked for an overview of the cited fees as well as the facilities being impacted.

Counsel Bergen advised that this item set forth a fee schedule for reimbursement to the County by municipalities for the use of County equipment, mainly out of the County's Parks and Recreation Department.

**FINAL READING STATEMENT**

Vice Chair Rebecca L. Williams, Policy Committee Chair, moved ordinance number 864-2026 for final reading and authorized the clerk of the board to advertise same in accordance with the law.

On a motion made by Vice-Chairman Williams and seconded by Commissioner Neron, roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative, with Commissioner Mirabella absent.

**ORDINANCE FOR INTRODUCTION**

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Clerk of the Board Pellettiere read Ordinance 865-2026 by title.

**864-2026 AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND “THE LAWS OF UNION COUNTY: ADMINISTRATIVE CODE AND POLICIES AND GENERAL LEGISLATION” BY AMENDING: PART II-POLICIES AND GENERAL LEGISLATION: CHAPTER 49, FEES, ARTICLE X (NEW), GENERAL FEES TO OFFSET THE COST OF ELECTRONIC RECEIPT TRANSACTIONS.**

**FIRST READING STATEMENT**

Vice Chair Rebecca L. Williams, Policy Committee Chair, will move Ordinance Number 865-2026 for First Reading and authorize the Clerk of the Board to advertise same in accordance with the law. The Public Hearing and Final Reading will be held on March 26, 2026.

On a motion made by Vice-Chairman Williams and seconded by Commissioner Neron, roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative, with Commissioner Mirabella absent.

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**2026 EXECUTIVE BUDGET STATEMENT**

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Chairman Bodek turned the meeting over to County Manager Oatman to present the 2026 Executive Budget.

County Manager Edward T. Oatman presents the 2026 Executive Budget to the Board of County Commissioners.

*Chairman Bodek and Members of the Board of County Commissioners, as County Manager, I present the 2026 Executive Budget. This budget is being presented during a time of significant fiscal pressure. Federal funding that supports essential services has already been cut. SNAP funding alone is down several million dollars this year, with an additional \$7 million reduction anticipated next year; further federal reductions still remain possible. These cuts create real and immediate challenges for County governments. At the same time, Union County must account for a 21% combined increase in health and prescription benefit costs for 2026, a substantial rise in fixed expenses that directly affect our operating budget. We are not immune from the financial pressures affecting governments nationwide. Rising healthcare costs, inflation, and federal funding reductions require disciplined and deliberate actions at the local level. The proposed 2026 Executive Budget totals \$547,110,036.23. That includes a 2% increase in the tax levy over 2025. This adjustment is necessary to address escalating fixed costs, particularly healthcare and prescription benefits, while maintaining stable County operations and protecting the most essential services. Union County has consistently responded to fiscal pressure without decommissioning core services. When residents face good insecurities related to SNAP disruptions, the County acted swiftly to protect vulnerable households. Because we have maintained strong fiscal discipline, we are able to respond when circumstances demand it. We will continue pursuing shared services and operation efficiencies to safeguard taxpayer resources, while sustaining the services our municipalities and residents depend on. This budget reflects disciplined decision-making at a time of uncertainty and positions Union County to remain financially stable while continuing to meet the needs of our community. I extend my sincere appreciation to the Board of County Commissioners for their leadership and Department Heads for their diligence and professionalism throughout the process. Special Thank you to Department of Finance, whose expertise and tireless work have been invaluable in this process. Together, we remain focused in maintaining Union County's financial stability while continuing to meet the needs of our community. Thank you.*

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**PUBLIC COMMENT PORTION**

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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 relative to rice notices received by County employees in the past two weeks. Relative to Reso No. 2026-145, he inquired about how the cited monies would be used. Relative to Reso No. 2026-146, he inquired about posting municipal public notices on the County website. Relative to Reso Nos. 2026-161 & 2025-162, he inquired about expense monitoring. He also asked for a detailed explanation of Reso No. 2026-167. Relative to Reso No. 2026-171, he asked if a presentation for this item was on the agenda tonight. Relative to Reso Nos. 2026-172 through 2026-174, he asked who would be responsible for these costs. Relative to Reso No. 2026-178, he inquired about the annual increase. He also asked for additional information relative to Reso No. 2026-181.

Relative to Reso No. 2026-145, County Manager Oatman advised that this item related to on-call architectural services, adding that the vendor would be contracted as need, with no current assignments scheduled.

Relative to Reso No. 2026-146, County Manager Oatman advised that per law, municipalities and other governmental entities would be required to post and maintain their own public notices.

Relative to Reso Nos. 2026-161 & 2026-162, County Manager Oatman advised that the County adhered to all laws.

Relative to Reso No. 2026-167, Director Taylor advised that consistent with NJSA 40A:4-59, the County was required to execute this item, in order to transfer funds from appropriation reserves, as needed, to cover claims for which there was insufficient appropriations. She added that health benefit costs during the month of November and December of 2025, had exceeded all projections, requiring the County to make certain adjustments to cover related costs and claims in the amount of \$5,936,845.04. She added that the line item for benefits would be covered by various appropriation reserves throughout various County departments from last year's remaining balances.

Relative to Reso No. 2026-171, County Manager Oatman confirmed there would be no presentation.

Relative to Reso Nos. 2026-172 through 2026-174, County Manager Oatman advised that the County would be reimbursed for these costs after the election.

Relative to Reso No. 2026-178, County Manager Oatman confirmed a 3% increase.

Relative to Reso No. 2026-181, County Counsel Bergen advised that this matter out of the Prosecutor's Office had been litigated for quite some time, adding that a motion for a summary judgment to end the case had been denied. He confirmed that the County's insurance company recommended settling the matter and would be responsible for paying a major portion of the settlement amount.

There were no additional questions or comments from the public.

#### RESOLUTIONS FOR ADOPTION

The following resolutions are being offered for adoption:

**2026-143 Commissioner James E. Baker, Jr.:** Authorizing the County Manager to enter into a Shared Services Agreement with Union College of Union County, NJ to incorporate their Cranford Campus paving project into the Union County annual Paving Project, where said Union College of Union County paving project is to be funded and paid for by Union College of Union County, NJ.

On a motion made by Commissioner Baker and seconded by Vice Chair Williams, roll call eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative, with Commissioner Mirabella absent.

**2026-144 Commissioner James E. Baker, Jr.:** Authorizing the County Manager to enter into a contract with Radiac Research Corp., d/b/a Radiac Environmental Services, Brooklyn, NY, for the purpose of providing four (4) Union County household hazardous waste program events for 2026 in an amount not to exceed \$240,000.00.

On a motion made by Commissioner Baker and seconded by Vice Chair Williams, roll call eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative, with Commissioner Mirabella absent.

**2026-145 Commissioner James E. Baker, Jr.:** Authorizing the County Manager to enter into a contract with DIGroup Architecture of New Brunswick, New Jersey to provide On-Call Architectural Services commencing January 1, 2026 through December 31, 2026, in an amount not to exceed \$10,000.00.

On a motion made by Commissioner Baker and seconded by Vice Chair Williams, roll call eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative, with Commissioner Mirabella absent.

**2026-146 Commissioner James E. Baker, Jr.:** Authorizing the County Manager to enter into a contract with Opengov Inc. of San Francisco, California, to provide the licensing, upgrade and maintenance to the web-based Operations Management System with Enterprise Licensing for a contract period of January 1, 2026 through December 31, 2026, in an amount not to exceed \$129,764.26.

On a motion made by Commissioner Baker and seconded by Vice Chair Williams, roll call eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative, with Commissioner Mirabella absent.

**2026-147 Commissioner James E. Baker, Jr.:** Authorizing the County Manager to enter into a contract with PS&S, of Warren, New Jersey to provide Professional Services required for the NJDEP Stormwater Permit Application and Class B Recycling Center Permit Application for necessary permits for required Capital Projects in an amount not to exceed \$103,080.00.

On a motion made by Commissioner Baker and seconded by Vice Chair Williams, roll call eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative, with Commissioner Mirabella absent.

**2026-148 Commissioner James E. Baker, Jr.:** Authorizing the County Manager to enter into a contract with USA Architects of Somerville, New Jersey to provide engineering design, construction administration and inspection services for the relocation of various Union County Departments and Union County Judiciary via space planning services for both Union County and Union County Judiciary in an amount not to exceed \$30,000.00.

On a motion made by Commissioner Baker and seconded by Vice Chair Williams, roll call eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative, with Commissioner Mirabella absent.

**2026-149 Commissioner James E. Baker, Jr.:** Amending Resolution 2024-511, a contract with USA Architects, Somerville, NJ to provide Design Services, Procurement Assistance, and Construction Administration relating to the renovations of various Union County Facilities within the City of Elizabeth, New Jersey in an additional amount of \$107,000.00 for a new contract amount not to exceed \$436,062.50.

On a motion made by Commissioner Baker and seconded by Vice Chair Williams, roll call eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative, with Commissioner Mirabella absent.

**2026-150 Commissioner James E. Baker, Jr.:** Amending Resolution 2024-410, a contract with USA Architects, Somerville, NJ to provide Design Services, Procurement Assistance, and Construction Administration for a Fire Sprinkler Installation project in the New Annex Courthouse building, Elizabeth, NJ, increasing the contract by \$107,680.00 for a new contract amount not to exceed \$431,649.00.

On a motion made by Commissioner Baker and seconded by Vice Chair Williams, roll call eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative, with Commissioner Mirabella absent.

**2026-151 Commissioner James E. Baker, Jr.:** Authorizing the County Manager to enter into a revenue-generating agreement with SAGE Eldercare, Inc., Summit, New Jersey for the provision of transportation services through the Union County Paratransit System for Adult Day Care clients for

an estimated revenue amount of \$32,000.00 for the period of January 1, 2026 through December 31, 2026.

On a motion made by Commissioner Baker and seconded by Vice Chair Williams, roll call eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative, with Commissioner Mirabella absent.

**2026-152 Commissioner James E. Baker, Jr.:** Authorizing the County Manager to enter into a revenue-generating agreement with Inroads to Opportunities, Roselle, New Jersey for the provision of transportation services through the Union County Paratransit System for Partial Care clients for an estimated revenue amount of \$14,000.00 for the period of January 1, 2026 through December 31, 2026.

On a motion made by Commissioner Baker and seconded by Vice Chair Williams, roll call eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative, with Commissioner Mirabella absent.

**2026-153 Commissioner James E. Baker, Jr.:** Authorizing the County Manager to exercise the County's option to extend the contract with OFF Management LLC, Roselle, NJ, pursuant to Resolution 2010-1069, for mobile food/ice cream truck concession services at the Phil Rizzuto Park, Union, New Jersey, for the period of two (2) additional seven (7) month seasons for an estimated revenue amount of \$9,870.00.

On a motion made by Commissioner Baker and seconded by Vice Chair Williams, roll call eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative, with Commissioner Mirabella absent.

**2026-154 Commissioner James E. Baker, Jr.:** Amending Resolution 2025-102, a Cooperative Services Agreement with the United States Department of Agriculture, Animal Plant, Health Inspection Service, Wildlife Services (USDA, APHIS, WS) to increase the appropriation for the year 2025, in the amount of \$9,287.25 for a new total amount not to exceed \$144,287.25.

On a motion made by Commissioner Baker and seconded by Vice Chair Williams, roll call eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative, with Commissioner Mirabella absent.

**2026-155 Commissioner James E. Baker, Jr.:** Authorizing the County Manager to award a contract obtained through advertised public bidding in accordance with the Local Public Contracts Law, NJS.A. 40A:1-1 et seq; Danny's Soft Serve, Corporation, Elizabeth NJ, for the purpose of providing Mobile food/ice cream truck and services for Ponderosa Park, Scotch Plains, New Jersey, for the contract period of three (3) seasons, commencing upon contract execution, April 2026 through October 2028, with the option to extend for two (2) additional seasons, in a revenue-generating amount of \$12,630.99.

On a motion made by Commissioner Baker and seconded by Vice Chair Williams, roll call eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative, with Commissioner Mirabella absent.

**2026-156 Commissioner James E. Baker, Jr.:** Rescinding Resolution Number 2026-97, authorizing the County Manager to apply for and execute a grant from the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs under the 2026 Local Recreation Improvement Grant (LRIG), in the amount of \$75,000.00.

On a motion made by Commissioner Baker and seconded by Vice Chair Williams, roll call eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative, with Commissioner Mirabella absent.

**2026-157 Commissioner James E. Baker, Jr.:** Authorizing the County Manager to apply for and execute a grant from the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs under the 2026 Local Recreation Improvement Grant (LRIG) for Basketball Court Improvements at Conant Park, Hillside, NJ in the amount of \$75,000.00.

On a motion made by Commissioner Baker and seconded by Vice Chair Williams, roll call eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative, with Commissioner Mirabella absent.

**2026-158 Commissioner Lourdes M. Leon:** Amending Resolution 2025-884 to authorize the transfer of funds amongst the funded agencies listed in the 2026 Alcohol/Drug Abuse Grant (A/DA) Spending Plan for subcontracted services to be provided during the period of January 1, 2026 through December 31, 2026 with a change in appropriation accounts.

On a motion made by Commissioner Baker and seconded by Vice Chair Williams, roll call eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative, with Commissioner Mirabella absent.

**2026-159 Commissioner Lourdes M. Leon:** Appointing the following members to the Behavioral Health Advisory Board (BHAB): Tendai Merriweather to a three-year term expiring December 31, 2028.

On a motion made by Commissioner Baker and seconded by Vice Chair Williams, roll call eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative, with Commissioner Mirabella absent.

**2026-160 Commissioner Alexander Mirabella:** Authorizing the County Manager to extend the contract with Groundwork Elizabeth, Elizabeth, NJ, pursuant to Resolution 2024-140, for the administration and implementation of the Union County Plant A Seed Program for a one-year period commencing January 1, 2026 through December 31, 2026 in a total amount not to exceed \$40,000.00.

On a motion made by Commissioner Baker and seconded by Vice Chair Williams, roll call eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative, with Commissioner Mirabella absent.

**2026-161 Commissioner Alexander Mirabella:** Authorizing the County Manager to enter into a contract with the Union County Performing Arts Center (UCPAC), Rahway, NJ for the presentation of "Sensory Friendly Theater" for children with autism and special needs for up to four (4) performances and four (4) movies during the period of January 1, 2026 through December 31, 2026, in an amount not to exceed \$60,000.00.

On a motion made by Commissioner Baker and seconded by Vice Chair Williams, roll call eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative, with Commissioner Mirabella absent.

**2026-162 Commissioner Alexander Mirabella:** Authorizing the County Manager to enter into a contract with the Union County Performing Arts Center (UCPAC), Rahway, NJ for implementation of the 2026 Summer Theater Camp Scholarship Program, a four-week summer conservatory held at the Hamilton Stage for campers between the ages of 8-17 years for the period of June 29, 2026 through July 26, 2026, in an amount not to exceed \$31,500.00.

On a motion made by Commissioner Baker and seconded by Vice Chair Williams, roll call eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative, with Commissioner Mirabella absent.

**2026-163 Commissioner Stanley J. Neron:** Authorizing the County Manager to enter into agreements with various community-based organizations for the purpose of providing shelter night stays and crisis intervention services for Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), General Assistance (G) and/or Emergency Assistance (EA) recipients for the period of January 1, 2026 through December 31, 2026 with a County Match in an amount not to exceed \$275,700.00.

On a motion made by Commissioner Baker and seconded by Vice Chair Williams, roll call eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative, with Commissioner Mirabella absent.

**2026-164 Commissioner Stanley J. Neron:** Authorizing the County Manager to approve the 2025-2026 HEARTH Emergency Solutions (HES) Grant Program Spending Plan for subcontracted services to be provided during the period of August 1, 2025 to July 31, 2026 in a total amount not to exceed \$369,409.00.

On a motion made by Commissioner Baker and seconded by Vice Chair Williams, roll call eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative, with Commissioner Mirabella absent.

**2026-165 Commissioner Stanley J. Neron:** Appointing the following members to the Human Services Advisory Council (HSAC): Misrak McPherson, Dr. Stephanie Falana, and Fiorella Rodriguez to a three-year term expiring December 31, 2028.

On a motion made by Commissioner Baker and seconded by Vice Chair Williams, roll call eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative, with Commissioner Mirabella absent.

**2026-166 Commissioner Kimberly Palmieri-Mouded:** Authorizing the County Manager to apply for and obtain a grant from the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs in the amount of \$9,000,000.

On a motion made by Commissioner Baker and seconded by Vice Chair Williams, roll call eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative, with Commissioner Mirabella absent.

**2026-167 Commissioner Kimberly Palmieri-Mouded:** Approving transfer of Current Fund Appropriation.

On a motion made by Commissioner Baker and seconded by Vice Chair Williams, roll call eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative, with Commissioner Mirabella absent.

**2026-168 Commissioner Joseph Signorello III:** Authorizing the County Manager to enter into an agreement with Boxwood Learning Center Inc., 115 Second Avenue, #3, Roselle, NJ 07203 to provide program services based on the Juvenile Justice Commission Points of Continuum: Prevention, Diversion, Detention, Disposition, and Reentry, for the contract period of January 1, 2026 through December 31, 2026 in a total amount not to exceed \$215,797.85.

On a motion made by Commissioner Baker and seconded by Vice Chair Williams, roll call eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative, with Commissioner Mirabella absent.

**2026-169 Commissioner Joseph Signorello III:** Authorizing the County Manager to enter into subcontract agreements as listed on the Union County Youth Services Commission Spending Plan to provide program services based on the Juvenile Justice Commission Points of Continuum: Prevention, Diversion, Detention, Disposition, and Reentry, for the contract period of January 1, 2026 through December 31, 2026 in a total amount not to exceed \$334,345.15.

On a motion made by Commissioner Baker and seconded by Vice Chair Williams, roll call eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative, with Commissioner Mirabella absent.

**2026-170 Commissioner Joseph Signorello III:** Authorizing the County Manager to enter into a subcontracted agreement with Communities in Cooperation, Inc., Linden, NJ, to provide court-ordered disposition program services for youth in the local juvenile justice system as per the Union County Youth Services Commission Juvenile Detention Alternative Initiative Spending Plan, for the contract period of January 1, 2026 through December 31, 2026 in a total amount not to exceed \$114,000.00.

On a motion made by Commissioner Baker and seconded by Vice Chair Williams, roll call eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative, with Commissioner Mirabella absent.

**2026-171 Vice Chair Rebecca L. Williams:** Authorizing the County Manager to award the 2026 Local Arts Program grant to 44 Union County agencies and organizations in an amount not to exceed \$300,500.00.

On a motion made by Commissioner Baker and seconded by Vice Chair Williams, roll call eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative, with Commissioner Mirabella absent.

**2026-172 Chairman Joseph C. Bodek:** Amending Resolution 2025-901, a contract with Royal Printing Services, West New York, New Jersey for printing services associated with elections needed by the County for 2026–2027, to reflect additional Grant account numbers and an additional funding in the combined amount of \$195,361.00, for a new contract total not to exceed \$2,596,881.00, for the following: 2026 Berkeley Heights Special School Election; 2026 Westfield Special School Election; Early Voting for the 2026 Primary; 2026 General; Mail-in Voter Education Program.

On a motion made by Commissioner Baker and seconded by Vice Chair Williams, roll call eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative, with Commissioner Mirabella absent.

**2026-173 Chairman Joseph C. Bodek:** Amending Resolution 2025-903, a contract with Full Service Mailers East Rutherford, NJ, for mail fulfillment services associated with elections needed by the County for 2026–2027, to reflect additional Grant account numbers and additional funding in the combined amount of \$8,659.81.00, for a new contract total not to exceed \$254,256.71, for the following: 2026 Berkeley Heights Special School Election; 2026 Westfield Special School Election; Mail-in Voter Education Program.

On a motion made by Commissioner Baker and seconded by Vice Chair Williams, roll call eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative, with Commissioner Mirabella absent.

**2026-174 Chairman Joseph C. Bodek:** Amending Resolution 2025-904, a contract with B & B Press Inc., Lebanon, New Jersey, for print services for Mail-in-Ballots and Provisional Ballots for 2026 and 2027 elections, to reflect additional Grant account numbers and additional funding amounts in the combined amount of \$28,021.50, for a new contract total not to exceed \$776,664.24, for the following: 2026 Berkeley Heights Special School Election; and 2026 Westfield Special School Election.

On a motion made by Commissioner Baker and seconded by Vice Chair Williams, roll call eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative, with Commissioner Mirabella absent.

**2026-175 Chairman Joseph C. Bodek:** Amending Resolution Number 2025-435, a Memorandum of Understanding with Trinitas Regional Medical Center/RWJ Barnabas Health, to extend the contract period from March 1, 2025 through May 31, 2026.

On a motion made by Commissioner Baker and seconded by Vice Chair Williams, roll call eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative, with Commissioner Mirabella absent.

**2026-176 Chairman Joseph C. Bodek:** Approving the 2026 Union County Surrogate Five Year Spending P

On a motion made by Commissioner Baker and seconded by Vice Chair Williams, roll call eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative, with Commissioner Mirabella absent.

**2026-177 Chairman Joseph C. Bodek:** Authorizing the County Manager to enter into a contract with ComPsych Corporation, Chicago, IL, for the provision of a comprehensive Federal Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA), the State of New Jersey Family Leave Act (FLA) and Military Leave Administration Program to County employees for the period of March 1, 2026 through December 2026 in an amount not to exceed \$46,000.00, with two (2) 12-month options to extend.

On a motion made by Commissioner Baker and seconded by Vice Chair Williams, roll call eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative, with Commissioner Mirabella absent.

**2026-178 Chairman Joseph C. Bodek:** Authorizing the County Manager to sign any and all documents necessary to enter into a Collective Bargaining Agreement with Council 8, effective January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2027.

On a motion made by Commissioner Baker and seconded by Vice Chair Williams, roll call eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative, with Commissioner Mirabella absent.

**2026-179 Chairman Joseph C. Bodek:** Amending Resolution 2025-699 to increase the appropriation amount to Thorton Tomasetti of Newark, NJ to provide litigation expert architectural and engineering consulting and litigation support services by an additional amount not to exceed \$100,000.00, for a total contract amount not to exceed \$200,000.00, in the matter of County of Union v. Cumming Construction Mgmt., Inc., et al.

On a motion made by Commissioner Baker and seconded by Vice Chair Williams, roll call eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative, with Commissioner Mirabella absent.

**2026-180 Chairman Joseph C. Bodek:** Amending Resolution 2026-123, agreements with various vendors for the purchase of such law books and materials as is necessary for various departments, constitutional officers and agencies within the County of Union for the year 2026 to increase \$3,000 to the Prosecutor's Office appropriation amount, for a total contract amount not to exceed \$49,700.00. All other departments remain the same.

On a motion made by Commissioner Baker and seconded by Vice Chair Williams, roll call eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative, with Commissioner Mirabella absent.

**2026-181 Chairman Joseph C. Bodek:** Authorizing the County Manager to execute a Settlement Agreement in the matter entitled Meghan Tomlinson v. Union County Prosecutor's Office, et al., Docket No. UNN-L-02518-23, in an amount not to exceed \$500,000.00, of which the amount of \$181,000.00 is

be paid by the County of Union and the remaining balance of \$319,000.00 shall be paid by Chubb Insurance Company.

On a motion made by Commissioner Baker and seconded by Vice Chair Williams, roll call eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative, with Commissioner Mirabella absent.

**2026-182 Chairman Joseph C. Bodek:** Acknowledging the internet website publication of all Union County legal notices effective March 1, 2026, pursuant to P.L. 2025, c. 72.

On a motion made by Commissioner Baker and seconded by Vice Chair Williams, roll call eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative, with Commissioner Mirabella absent.

#### LAUDATORY RESOLUTIONS AND RESOLUTIONS OF CONDOLENCE

**2026-183 Commissioner James E. Baker, Jr., Chairman Joseph C. Bodek, Vice Chair Rebecca L. Williams, and the Entire Board:** Recognizing the passing of Civil Rights activist, Rev. Jesse Jacks on February 17, 2026, as the County of Union and the nation celebrate Black History Month.

On a motion made by Commissioner Baker and seconded by Vice Chair Williams, roll call eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative, with Commissioner Mirabella absent.

**2026-184 Commissioner Alexander Mirabella, and the Entire Board:** Extending the Board's deepest condolences to the family of Matthew and Felice Henry during this time of sorrow.

On a motion made by Commissioner Baker and seconded by Vice Chair Williams, roll call eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative, with Commissioner Mirabella absent.

**2026-185 Vice Chair Rebecca L. Williams, and the Entire Board:** Extending the Board's deepest condolences to the family of Troy Mildred McCray during this time of sorrow.

On a motion made by Commissioner Baker and seconded by Vice Chair Williams, roll call eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative, with Commissioner Mirabella absent.

**2026-186 Chairman Joseph C. Bodek, and the Entire Board:** Congratulating Frank Mea upon being promoted to Chief of the Berkeley Heights Police Department on January 2, 2026.

On a motion made by Commissioner Baker and seconded by Vice Chair Williams, roll call eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative, with Commissioner Mirabella absent.

**2026-187 Chairman Joseph C. Bodek, and the Entire Board:** Offering this Board's deepest sympathies and sincere condolences to Robert Renaud and his family on the passing of his granddaughter, Siena M Brachelli, during this time of sorrow.

On a motion made by Commissioner Baker and seconded by Vice Chair Williams, roll call eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative, with Commissioner Mirabella absent.

**2026-188 Chairman Joseph C. Bodek, and the Entire Board:** Extending the Board's deepest condolences to the family of Darryl Gent during this time of sorrow.

On a motion made by Commissioner Baker and seconded by Vice Chair Williams, roll call eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative, with Commissioner Mirabella absent.

**2026-189 Chairman Joseph C. Bodek, and the Entire Board:** Recognizing the Union County St. Patrick's Day Parade Committee as they host the 29th Union County St. Patrick's Day Parade on Saturday, March 14, 2026; and further recognizing and congratulating Kerry Schardien-Ricci (Grand Marshal James Holmes (Adjutant) and Gabby Sully (General Chairwoman).

On a motion made by Commissioner Baker and seconded by Vice Chair Williams, roll call eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative, with Commissioner Mirabella absent.

**2026-190 Chairman Joseph C. Bodek, Commissioner Stanley J. Neron, Commissioner Lourdes M. Leon, and the Entire Board:** Recognizing the Tia Maria Foundation for its dedication to empowering our county's students and educators at the Tia Maria Foundation's 2nd Annual Scholarship Gala on Friday, March 13, 2026; and further recognizing and congratulating the Tia Maria Foundations' 2nd Annual Scholarship Gala honorees: Jay La'Porte and Marianne Wilson upon being honored with the Hall of Fame Award, and Abner Rodriguez, the Deputy Chief of Police for the City of Elizabeth, upon being honored with the Impact Award, and Renee Drummond upon being honored with the Teachers' Insurance Plan Educator of the Year Award.

On a motion made by Commissioner Baker and seconded by Vice Chair Williams, roll call eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative, with Commissioner Mirabella absent.

**2026-191 Chairman Joseph C. Bodek, Vice Chair Rebecca L. Williams, and the Entire Board:** Extend the Board's deepest condolences to the family of O'Keitha Syreina Nurse during this time of sorrow.

On a motion made by Commissioner Baker and seconded by Vice Chair Williams, roll call eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative, with Commissioner Mirabella absent.

**2026-192 Chairman Joseph C. Bodek, Commissioner Alexander Mirabella, Commissioner Joseph Signorello III, and the Entire Board:** Congratulating the Borough of Roselle Park upon celebrating its 125th Anniversary on Sunday, March 22, 2026.

On a motion made by Commissioner Baker and seconded by Vice Chair Williams, roll call eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative, with Commissioner Mirabella absent.

**2026-193 Chairman Joseph C. Bodek, Commissioner Kimberly Palmieri-Mouded, and the Entire Board:** Recognizing the New Jersey School Boards Association (NJSBA) upon hosting their annual Union County Unsung Heroes on Wednesday, March 11, 2026.

On a motion made by Commissioner Baker and seconded by Vice Chair Williams, roll call eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative, with Commissioner Mirabella absent.

#### **COMMISSIONER REPORTS AND COMMENTS**

Commissioner Neron reminded residents that the UC Family Clinic in Elizabeth, would continue to offer free wellness visits for children up to age five, every third Wednesday of each month. He added that the UC Family Clinic also provided routine physical examinations, vision and hearing screening and lead testing, among other services. He also advised that vaccinations and testing were available for uninsured residents of all ages. He encouraged residents to visit the County website for additional information and or to schedule an

appointment. On another note, Commissioner Neron recognized all the local organizations throughout Union County for their Black History Month programs throughout the month of February. To close, he thanked the County's Public Works division for their recent snow removal efforts.

Commissioner Signorello invited senior residents 60 and older and their caregivers to the County's upcoming Aging Services Kiosk (ASK) through the County's Human Services Department. He advised that attendees could receive in-person guidance from seasoned professionals relative to available resources and services for aging residents, including respite care, adult day care, and caregiver support services. He added that bilingual assistance would be available.

Commissioner Leon invited residents to attend the County's annual Irish Flag Raising on Thursday, March 5<sup>th</sup>, at the Union County Courthouse as well as the upcoming Saint Patrick's Day Parade on Saturday, March 14<sup>th</sup>, with a rain date scheduled for March 28<sup>th</sup>. She thanked the County's community partners, including the St. Patrick's Day Parade Committee and the NJ State Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians, for their efforts in organizing this annual event highlighting Irish heritage and culture.

Joined by Senate President Scutari, Chairman Bodek, Vice Chair Williams, and Commissioner Leon, Commissioner Palmieri-Mouded noted her recent attendance of the ribbon-cutting ceremony for the Academy of Global Logistics at UCVTS. She highlighted the new opportunities afforded to the students of UCVTS through this new program, allowing them to secure skills in supply-chain management and related careers, while earning college credits and real-life experience.

In honor of Women's History Month, Commissioner Delisfort announced this year's theme "Leading the Change: Women Shaping a Sustainable Future" meant to highlight the leadership, innovation, and lasting impact of women shaping stronger, more sustainable communities. She also announced that nominations for the County's 2026 SHERO Awards would soon be accepted, recognizing women of all walks of life who advocate for change and often make quiet, but significant strides in making Union County stronger. She also noted an upcoming video series featuring all four female Commissioners. She added that the Union County Courthouse would be illuminated in white, purple, and green in recognition of Women's History Month. To close, she thanked all the municipalities that hosted programs and events throughout the month of February in honor of Black History Month. She congratulated Superintendent Ryan and all the students at UCVTS. She also thanked the County's Public Works division for their efforts relative to snow removal.

Commissioner Baker announced that the County would be kicking off its 2026 seasonal recycling events with its first paper shredding event on March 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> at the Union County Votech Campus in Scotch Plains. He advised that these events would continue through October at various locations and would include shredding, scrap metal collection, and hazardous household waste disposal. He encouraged interested residents to visit the County's website for the full list of events, dates, and locations. To close, he noted the recent passing of civil rights activist, Jesse Jackson.

In celebration of Women's History Month and the nation's upcoming semiquincentennial celebration, Vice-Chair Williams invited residents to attend a free, live speaking engagement titled "*Union County Women of the American Revolution*", featuring County Clerk Joanne Rajoppi as keynote speaker, on March 19<sup>th</sup> at Union College's Cranford Campus. Organized through the County's Office of Cultural and Heritage, she noted that this presentation would highlight and honor the women of the American Revolution era and their lasting impact on our nation's history. To close, she congratulated County Engineer Ricardo Matias for being named

2026 President of the NJ State Association of County Engineers.

Chairman Bodek thanked County Manager Oatman, Deputy County Manager Wagner, Finance Director Taylor and all the Directors and staff for their efforts related to the 2026 Executive Budget. He noted several financial challenges stemming from federal funding cuts, adding that the County staff continued to work tirelessly to ensure no interruption in the services Union County residents rely upon. On another note, Chairman Bodek announced that the County's Directory was now available in digital format on the County's website.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

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Chairman Bodek asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

On a motion made by Vice-Chair 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 7:15 PM.

**UNION COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
2026 MEETING SCHEDULE**

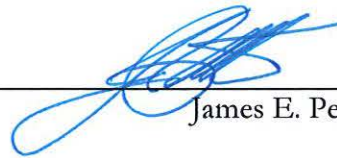
**REORGANIZATION MEETING - THURSDAY, JANUARY 1, 2026 AT 11:00 A.M.  
UNION COUNTY COURTHOUSE- 2 BROAD STREET, ELIZABETH**

**AGENDA SETTING SESSION**

Thursday, January 29, 2026  
Thursday, February 26, 2026  
Thursday, March 26, 2026  
Thursday, April 30, 2026  
Thursday, May 28, 2026  
Thursday, June 25, 2026  
Thursday, July 30, 2026  
Thursday, August 27, 2026  
Thursday, September 24, 2026  
Thursday, October 15, 2026  
Thursday, November 12, 2026  
Thursday, December 10, 2026

**REGULAR MEETING**

Thursday, January 29, 2026  
Thursday, February 26, 2026  
Thursday, March 26, 2026  
Thursday, April 30, 2026  
Thursday, May 28, 2026  
Thursday, June 25, 2026  
Thursday, July 30, 2026  
Thursday, August 27, 2026  
Thursday, September 24, 2026  
Thursday, October 15, 2026  
Thursday, November 12, 2026  
Thursday, December 10, 2026



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

Please note that the County Commissioners' meetings are to be regularly held on Thursday 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.