



UNION COUNTY BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS

THURSDAY, APRIL 23, 2020
REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Mirabella presided over the meeting and called the meeting to order at 5:49 P.M.

ROLL CALL

Roll call showed Chairman Alexander Mirabella, Vice Chairman Angel G. Estrada, Freeholder Angela R. Garretson, Freeholder Sergio Granados, Freeholder Christopher Hudak, Freeholder Bette Jane Kowalski, Freeholder Kimberly Palmieri-MouDED, Freeholder Andrea Staten, Freeholder Rebecca Williams were present.

Also present were County Manager Edward T. Oatman, County Counsel Robert E. Barry, Esq., and Clerk of the Board James E. Pellettiere.

PRAYER AND SALUTE TO THE FLAG

The prayer and salute to the flag were led by Clerk of the Board Pellettiere.

STATEMENT OF COMPLIANCE WITH THE OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT

The statement of compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act was read by Clerk of the Board Pellettiere.

APPROVAL OF COMMUNICATIONS

Note and File

Chairman Mirabella called for a motion to approve the Communications. On a motion made by Freeholder Hudak and seconded by Freeholder Williams, roll call showed nine members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Thursday, March 5, 2020 - Agenda Setting Session
2. Thursday, March 5, 2020 - Regular Meeting
3. Wednesday, March 18, 2020 - Special Meeting
4. Thursday, March 26, 2020 - Agenda Setting Session
5. Thursday, March 26, 2020 - Regular Meeting

Chairman Mirabella called for a motion to approve the March Minutes. On a motion made by Freeholder Hudak and seconded by Freeholder Palmieri-MouDED, roll call nine members of the Board voted in the affirmative to approve the March 5th and March 26th Agenda Setting and Regular Meeting minutes respectively; with eight votes in the

affirmative for the March 18th Special Meeting Minutes, with Freeholder Garretson abstaining.

ORDINANCE FOR INTRODUCTION

813-2020 AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND "THE LAWS OF UNION COUNTY: ADMINISTRATIVE CODE AND POLICIES AND GENERAL LEGISLATION" BY AMENDING: PART 1-THE UNION COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE CODE, CHAPTER 1, UNION COUNTY GOVERNMENT STRUCTURE, ARTICLE III, BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS §1-13 POWERS OF THE BOARD; AND, ARTICLE XXIII, OFFICE OF THE COUNTY COUNSEL §1-139, FUNCTIONS AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE COUNTY COUNSEL.

Freeholder Rebecca Williams, Policy Chair, moved Ordinance Number 813-2019 for First Reading and authorized the Clerk of the Board to advertise same in accordance with the law. The public hearing and final reading is scheduled to be held on May 21, 2020.

On a motion made by Freeholder Williams and seconded by Freeholder Kowalski, roll called showed nine members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

814-2020 AN ORDINANCE FIXING THE SALARY FOR COUNTY COUNSEL

Freeholder Sergio Granados, Fiscal Chair, moved Ordinance Number 814-2019 for First Reading and authorized the Clerk of the Board to advertise same in accordance with the law. The public hearing and final reading is scheduled to be held on May 21, 2020.

On a motion made by Freeholder Granados and seconded by Freeholder Williams, roll called showed nine members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

Freeholder Granados spoke relative to the 2020 Budget that was introduced with a 0% tax levy, noting that the Board had made significant efforts over the last several years to minimize increases and achieve this feat. He spoke relative to the tremendous pressure faced by government during the COVID-19 pandemic and his pride at being able to present such a successful budget during such difficult times. He thanked County Manager Oatman, Deputy County Manager Wagner, Director Taylor as well as all the Directors and staff that worked diligently on the budget.

He recognized the negative effects of COVID-19 on residents and businesses throughout the county, noting that a 0% increase would hopefully lessen some of the financial hardships that would result from the pandemic as revenue has greatly diminished. He noted that the 0% tax levy increase was achieved while avoiding layoffs and service/program cuts and maintaining the highest bond rating. He added that existing vacancies had been eliminated to free up funds and a hiring freeze has been implemented.

Freeholder Granados thanked County Manager Oatman, Deputy County Manager Wagner, and Director Moran and his staff for their efforts relative to the UC Drive-Through Test Site at Kean

University, noting it as the leading test center in the state. He noted the tremendous challenges evoked by COVID-19, but noted his confidence in UC to address the growing needs and challenges to move forward and overcome the resulting hardships.

SUSPENSION OF RULES

Suspension of the rules allowed for the joining of both Public Comments on resolutions being offered for adoption, and Public Comments on any governmental issue that a member of the public feels may be of concern to the residents of the county.

Chairman Mirabella called for a motion for the Suspension of Rules. On a motion made by Freeholder Williams and seconded by Freeholder Staten roll called showed nine members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

PUBLIC COMMENT PORTION

The meeting was opened to the public for the purpose of commenting on Resolutions being offered for adoption only.

Greg Vartan, Finance Committee Chair of the City of Summit, emailed the following comment to the Board:

As the coronavirus health crisis continues, I write to express the sincere gratitude of the people of the City of Summit. We are thankful for your leadership in establishing NJ's first county-run testing site, clear communication, and continued fiscal restraint.

Over the last several years, Summit's Common Council has created municipal budgets that reflect the values of innovation, transparency, efficiency, and fiscal responsibility. We believe that we must maintain and expand excellent government services while keeping the community affordable. As the Chair of Summit Common Council's Finance committee, I thank you for amending the budget to keep spending flat while continuing to employ all staff. Summit residents can feel proud that our County government shares our values.

Thank you again.

Clerk of the Board Pelletiere advised that several other residents had emailed him to be added to the meeting attendee list, including Brenda Moide, Nixon Lou, and Lynn who made comments relative to the rising taxes in Union County. He advised that the aforementioned had all been provided with the necessary information and resources to participate in tonight's meeting.

Paul Payton made comments relative to the budget and asked for additional information relative to total spending, tax raises, and monies used in surplus. Director Taylor advised that the budget would be raised by \$614, 918, 699, with \$367,295,299 of that amount coming from taxes, the same amount as in 2019. She added that \$53, 290,931 of surplus was being used.

Bruce Paterson, of Garwood, emailed questions and comments relative to several resolutions and were read by Clerk of the Board Pelletiere.

Relative to Reso No. 2020-332, Mr. Paterson asked for an explanation relative to the exceed county tax levy and asked by how much it was being exceeded.

Director Taylor advised that the cited title was prescribed by the state and confirmed that the levy would be used to support the existing budget. She further added that it was intended as a financial planning tool which has remained unused for several years.

Relative to Reso No. 2020-335, he commended the Board for making the necessary adjustments to achieve a zero tax impact. He made comments relative to the financial repercussions that could stem from the COVID-19 pandemic, and asked whether municipal taxes would still fluctuate based on the equalized value of the property or if they would be zeroed out as well.

Chairman Mirabella thanked Mr. Paterson for recognizing the hard work behind presenting the 2020 Budget with a 0% tax levy. He advised that municipal taxes would likely be affected by the COVID-19 pandemic and taxes would be adjusted to needs accordingly.

Relative to Reso No. 2020-339, Mr. Paterson inquired about overall cost.

Director Anderson advised that the participating hotels had agreed to reimburse the county 100% of the incurred expenses. She noted that costs for individuals receiving government assistance was being paid through the state.

Relative to Reso 2020-344, he also inquired about the overall cost for the cited service.

County Manager Oatman advised that this was merely an extension to a contract that had already gone to bid.

Director Graziano added that the fees were determined based on prior contracts and use of service, noting that previously contracts were approximately \$100,000 more than the current contract.

Relative to Reso No. 2020-353, Mr. Paterson asked how much of the building was dedicated to social services.

County Counsel Barry advised that the entire building was currently allocated to social services and that the county was looking into consolidating space and finding addition use for available space.

Relative to Reso No. 2020-355, inquired about hazardous pay and asked who would be eligible to receive this reimbursement and whether the money would be

received as a stipend. He also asked who would be in charge of monitoring the distribution of these funds.

County Manager Oatman advised that hazardous pay would be issued as a stipend and would not be pensionable. He added that Public Safety would be responsible for overseeing the use of the funds, noting \$50,000 having been budgeted for this item.

RESOLUTIONS

The following Resolutions were offered for adoption:

2020-331 FREEHOLDER SERGIO GRANADOS: 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 Freeholder Granados and seconded by Freeholder Hudak, roll call showed nine members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

2020-332 FREEHOLDER SERGIO GRANADOS: Resolution to exceed the County tax levy limit and to establish a CAP Bank (N.J.S. 40A: 4-45.14).

On a motion made by Freeholder Granados and seconded by Freeholder Hudak, roll call showed nine members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

2020-333 FREEHOLDER SERGIO GRANADOS: Authorizing the Office of the Sheriff to exceed the County Entity Budget CAP (P.L., 2015, c.249).

On a motion made by Freeholder Granados and seconded by Freeholder Hudak, roll call showed nine members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

2020-334 FREEHOLDER SERGIO GRANADOS: Authorizing the Office of the Surrogate to exceed the County Entity Budget CAP (P.L., 2015, c.249).

On a motion made by Freeholder Granados and seconded by Freeholder Hudak, roll call showed nine members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

2020-335 FREEHOLDER SERGIO GRANADOS: Resolution Introducing and Approving the Annual Budget of the County of Union for the Fiscal Year 2020

On a motion made by Freeholder Granados and seconded by Freeholder Hudak, roll call showed nine members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

2020-336 FREEHOLDER SERGIO GRANADOS: Authorizing the County Manager to award a professional services contract to Dr. Vipul C. Mody, a physician under the medical firm KNJ Hospitalist Group, LLC, Bridgewater, NJ, to serve as Medical Director of

the Union County Pediatric Immunization Clinic located at 40 Parker Road, Elizabeth for the period of May 1, 2020 through December 31, 2020 in an amount not to exceed \$16,000.00.

On a motion made by Freeholder Granados and seconded by Freeholder Hudak, roll call showed nine members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

2020-337 FREEHOLDER SERGIO GRANADOS: Amending Resolution 2019-587, adopting the 2019-20 HEARTH Emergency Solutions (HES) Spending Plan, to reflect a one-month extension of the grant term from August 1, 2019-July 31, 2020 to August 1, 2019-August 31, 2020; further authorizing the County Manager to award additional funds in the amount not to exceed \$236,128 to The Gateway Family YMCA Eastern Union County to support emergency shelter operations as a result of COVID-19 expenses for the period of May 1, 2020 to August 31, 2020, for a new 2019-20 HES Spending Plan total not to exceed \$592,914.

On a motion made by Freeholder Granados and seconded by Freeholder Hudak, roll call showed nine members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

2020-338 FREEHOLDER SERGIO GRANADOS: Amending Resolution 2019-1060, entering into agreements with various community based organizations to provide shelter night stays for TANF, GA, and/or Emergency Assistance recipients for the period of January 1, 2020 through December 31, 2020, to add the services of six (6) motels to the list of shelter care facilities due to the increase in the number of homeless placements directly related to the COVID-19 Pandemic Shelter In Place Executive Order.

On a motion made by Freeholder Granados and seconded by Freeholder Hudak, roll call showed nine members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

2020-339 FREEHOLDER SERGIO GRANADOS: Amending Resolution 2019-917, approving the Countywide Code Blue Emergency Shelter Initiative to address the needs of the homeless during periods of extreme weather conditions, to add the services of six (6) hotels/motels to the list of Code Blue vendors for the period of January 1, 2020 through December 31, 2020 due to the increase in the number of homeless placements directly related to the COVID-19 Pandemic Shelter in Place Executive Order.

On a motion made by Freeholder Granados and seconded by Freeholder Hudak, roll call showed nine members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

2020-340 FREEHOLDER CHRISTOPHER HUDAK: Authorizing the County Manager to award a contract to Picerno-Giordano Construction, 200 Market Street, Kenilworth, New Jersey, 07033 for the demolition of structures at 112 Park Drive, Cranford, New Jersey, 07016 in an amount not to exceed \$39,500.00.

On a motion made by Freeholder Granados and seconded by Freeholder Hudak, roll call showed nine members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

2020-341 FREEHOLDER KIMBERLY PALMIERI-MOUEDED: Authorizing the County Manager to enter into an agreement with Super Laundry, Carlstadt, NJ for the purchase and

installation of one (1) Unimac Washing Machine for the Department of Engineering, Public Works and Facilities Management, to be installed at the Oriscello Correctional Facilities for an amount not to exceed \$28,485.00.

On a motion made by Freeholder Granados and seconded by Freeholder Hudak, roll call showed nine members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

2020-342 FREEHOLDER KIMBERLY PALMIERI-MOUEDED: Authorizing the County Manager to enter into an agreement with Whitaker Brothers North, Bristol, PA for the purchase and installation of new Audio System equipment for the Department of Engineering, Public Works and Facilities Management, to be installed within the Union County Courthouse, Elizabeth, NJ, for an amount not to exceed \$32,786.58

On a motion made by Freeholder Granados and seconded by Freeholder Hudak, roll call showed nine members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

2020-343 FREEHOLDER KIMBERLY PALMIERI-MOUEDED: 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: Engineering, Public Works & Facilities Management, Division of Facilities Management: White Rock Corporation, Old Bridge, NJ (BA#12-2020) for the purpose of providing Roofing Maintenance & Repair Services for twenty-four (24) consecutive months with the provision for one (1) twenty-four (24) month optional extension for a total contract amount not to exceed \$218,700.00.

On a motion made by Freeholder Granados and seconded by Freeholder Hudak, roll call showed nine members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

2020-344 FREEHOLDER KIMBERLY PALMIERI-MOUEDED: Authorizing the County Manager to award the proposed contract extension originally obtained through advertised public bidding (BA#22-2018) in accordance with the Local Public Contracts Law, NJSA 40A:11-1 et seq: Department of Engineering, Public Work & Facilities, Division of Facilities Management, UC Prosecutor's Office, Department of Corrections, Division of Public Works, Division of Motor Vehicles, Maffey's Security Group, Elizabeth, NJ, for the purpose of providing Locksmith Services & Locking Hardware services, twenty-four (24) consecutive months from May 8, 2020 through May 7, 2022, in an amount not exceed \$249,000.00.

On a motion made by Freeholder Granados and seconded by Freeholder Hudak, roll call showed nine members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

2020-345 FREEHOLDER KIMBERLY PALMIERI-MOUEDED: Amending Resolution 2019-426, adopting the 2019 Homeless Trust Fund (HTF) Spending Plan, for a change in account number only with no change in total dollars nor any other changes to terms of agreement.

On a motion made by Freeholder Granados and seconded by Freeholder Hudak, roll call showed nine members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

2020-346 FREEHOLDER ANDREA STATEN: Amending Resolution Number 2020-200, a contract with R. J. Sherman & Associates (Vermeer) for the purchase and repairs of various

parts for the Vermeer Compost Turner, to reflect an increase in the contract amount by a not to exceed amount of \$23,776.86 for a total contract amount not to exceed \$63,776.86; all other terms and conditions previously awarded remain the same.

On a motion made by Freeholder Granados and seconded by Freeholder Hudak, roll call showed nine members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

2020-347 CHAIRMAN ALEXANDER MIRABELLA: Amending Resolution 2020-79, a contract with Royal Printing Services, West New York, New Jersey, as per Resolution 2017-1075, to provide additional printing services of inner business reply envelopes, outer envelopes, and special remittance certificate envelopes in order to accommodate the large number of Vote-By-Mail ballots anticipated in the Presidential 2020 Primary and General Elections due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, and concerns with safety, providing voters with self-sealing envelopes and postage paid envelopes. This addition is for an amount not to exceed \$435,220 for a total amount not to exceed \$2,395,917.00.

On a motion made by Freeholder Granados and seconded by Freeholder Hudak, roll call showed nine members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

2020-348 CHAIRMAN ALEXANDER MIRABELLA: Authorizing the County Manager, through the Union County Prosecutor's Office, to enter into an agreement with Qiagen LLC, Germantown, MD, for the purpose of providing equipment, chemicals and supplies for DNA testing for the period of January 1, 2020 through December 31, 2020 in an amount not to exceed \$35,404.30.

On a motion made by Freeholder Granados and seconded by Freeholder Hudak, roll call showed nine members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

2020-349 CHAIRMAN ALEXANDER MIRABELLA: Authorizing the County Manager to enter into an agreement with Clearview Data Systems, Greenville, South Carolina to renew maintenance contracts in an amount not to exceed \$23,575.43 for the contract period of January 1, 2020 through December 31, 2020.

On a motion made by Freeholder Granados and seconded by Freeholder Hudak, roll call showed nine members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

2020-350 CHAIRMAN ALEXANDER MIRABELLA: Authorizing the County Manger to enter into an agreement for the purchase of an interview system and license from Axon Enterprise, Inc. in an amount not to exceed \$32,914.97.

On a motion made by Freeholder Granados and seconded by Freeholder Hudak, roll call showed nine members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

2020-351 CHAIRMAN ALEXANDER MIRABELLA: Authorizing the County Manager to apply for the Local Efficiency Achievement Program (LEAP) County Coordinator Fellowship Grant to support the County hiring a full-time Shared Services County Coordinator Fellow for a one-year period.

On a motion made by Freeholder Granados and seconded by Freeholder Hudak, roll call showed nine members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

2020-352 CHAIRMAN ALEXANDER MIRABELLA: Authorizing the County Manager to amend Resolution 2019-447 dated May 23, 2019 approving the 2019-2020 Annual Action Plan (Year 45) to include a special allocation of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG-CV) funds and Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG-CV) funds to prevent, prepare for and respond to the coronavirus pandemic (COVID-19), and to apply for and receive such funds from the Department of Housing and Urban Development, as authorized by the Coronavirus Aid Relief and Economic Security Act (CARES Act). This allocation represents a substantial amendment to Year 45 Action Plan, in an amount not to exceed \$4,139,331.00.

On a motion made by Freeholder Granados and seconded by Freeholder Hudak, roll call showed nine members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

2020-353 CHAIRMAN ALEXANDER MIRABELLA: A Resolution authorizing the County Manager to extend a Lease Agreement By and Between the County of Union and Alfieri-342 Westminster Associates, L.P., for a period of five (5) years commencing August 1, 2021 through July 31, 2026 in the total rental amount not to exceed \$7,871,615.04.

On a motion made by Freeholder Granados and seconded by Freeholder Hudak, roll call showed nine members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

2020-354 CHAIRMAN ALEXANDER MIRABELLA: Authorizing the County Manager to enter into a contract with Florio, Perrucci, Steinhardt, Capelli, Tipton & Taylor, LLC, of Rochelle Park, NJ, as Special Counsel to the County to provide services related to the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act ("CARES ACT") in the amount not to exceed \$50,000.00

On a motion made by Freeholder Granados and seconded by Freeholder Hudak, roll call showed nine members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

2020-355 CHAIRMAN ALEXANDER MIRABELLA: Authorizing the County Manager to enter into a Side Bar Agreement with FMBA Local R2343 for the provision of additional compensation for "hazardous duty pay" for eligible employees during the COVID-19 pandemic.

On a motion made by Freeholder Granados and seconded by Freeholder Hudak, roll call showed nine members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

2020-356 CHAIRMAN ALEXANDER MIRABELLA, & THE ENTIRE BOARD: Authorizing the County Manager to offer additional compensation for eligible employees for "hazardous duty pay" to Non-Contractual Part-time, Per-Diem and Seasonal EMTs during the COVID-19 pandemic retroactive to April 1, 2020.

On a motion made by Freeholder Granados and seconded by Freeholder Hudak, roll call showed nine members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

FREEHOLDER SPONSORED RESOLUTIONS

2020-357 FREEHOLDER ANGELA R. GARRETSON & THE ENTIRE BOARD: Resolution offering this Board's deepest sympathies to the family of former Hillside Mayor and Councilman Sam McGhee, during their time of sorrow.

On a motion made by Freeholder Granados and seconded by Freeholder Hudak, roll call showed nine members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

2020-358 FREEHOLDER ANDREA STATEN & THE ENTIRE BOARD: Resolution offering this Board's deepest sympathies to the family of Dorothy Mae Dobbins, mother of Roselle Councilwoman Cynthia Johnson, during their time of sorrow.

On a motion made by Freeholder Granados and seconded by Freeholder Hudak, roll call showed nine members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

2020-359 VICE CHAIRMAN ANGEL G. ESTRADA, FREEHOLDER GRANADOS, CHAIRMAN MIRABELLA & THE ENTIRE BOARD: Resolution offering this Board's deepest sympathies to the family of Artie Schnarr, Elizabeth Firefighter and uncle of Freeholder Alexander Mirabella, during their time of sorrow.

On a motion made by Freeholder Granados and seconded by Freeholder Hudak, roll call showed nine members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

2020-360 CHAIRMAN ALEXANDER MIRABELLA & THE ENTIRE BOARD: Resolution offering this Board's deepest sympathies to the family of Laurinda Pires, mother in law of Director Ronald Charles, during their time of sorrow.

On a motion made by Freeholder Granados and seconded by Freeholder Hudak, roll call showed nine members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

2020-361 CHAIRMAN ALEXANDER MIRABELLA & THE ENTIRE BOARD: Resolution offering this Board's deepest sympathies to the family of Antonio Anderson, father of Director Debbie-Ann Anderson, during their time of sorrow.

On a motion made by Freeholder Granados and seconded by Freeholder Hudak, roll call showed nine members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

2020-362 CHAIRMAN ALEXANDER MIRABELLA & THE ENTIRE BOARD: Resolution offering this Board's deepest sympathies to the family of Beatrice Fink, during their time of sorrow.

On a motion made by Freeholder Granados and seconded by Freeholder Hudak, roll call showed nine members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

2020-363 CHAIRMAN ALEXANDER MIRABELLA & THE ENTIRE BOARD: Resolution offering this Board's deepest sympathies to the family of Elma Munster, mother of Honorable Assignment Judge Karen Cassidy, during their time of sorrow.

On a motion made by Freeholder Granados and seconded by Freeholder Hudak, roll call showed nine members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

FREEHOLDER REPORTS AND COMMENTS

Freeholder Palmieri-Mouded spoke relative to the various challenges caused by the COVID-19 outbreak. She extended her gratitude to all the mental health

professionals and volunteers who have done their part to assist their communities through the crisis. She reminded residents that May is Mental Health Awareness Month, noting this year's theme "Tools 2 Thrive." She advised that additional information could be obtained at mhaw.org. She closed by advising that all essential services and resources were still available to residents in need.

Freeholder Staten thanked everyone for tuning in the Zoom Freeholder Agenda Setting and Regular Meeting. She extended her sympathies to the families that have lost loved ones to COVID-19, noting that all those affected were in her thoughts and prayers. She encouraged residents to continue social distancing and adhere to the various precautionary guidelines.

Freeholder Granados thanked Director Taylor and the various Directors and Staff involved in presenting the 2020 Budget with a 0% increase. He thanked County Manager Oatman and Deputy County Manager Wagner for their tremendous leadership. Relative to COVID-19, Freeholder Granados relished the incredible selfless efforts seen throughout the county during these difficult times. He thanked everyone for their time and donations and for their willingness to help in any way they can. He closed by thanking those on the frontlines, particularly medical professionals for their sacrifice and dedication.

Freeholder Williams also offered her condolences to all the families of those that have been lost to COVID-19. She spoke relative to a town hall meeting she attended on behalf of the Board in Union. She commended Mayor Michele Delifsort and Senator Joseph Cryan for facilitating the meeting as a means to provide essential updates to residents relative to COVID-19, including pending legislation as well as information relative to the COVID Drive-Through Testing Center at Kean University. She closed by thanking County Manager Oatman and Deputy County Manager Wagner for their efforts as well as all County staff. She also acknowledged health care workers and first responders for all their hard work during these trying times.

Freeholder Hudak thanked the staff involved in facilitating the FH Meetings through Zoom, including Clerk of the Board Pellettiere and Robert Charkowsky. He made comments relative to the 2020 Budget, noting the importance of effectively using available funds as a means to curb some of the financial ramifications resulting from COVID-19. He commended Freeholder Granados and the Fiscal Committee for their efforts in presenting the 2020 Budget, adding that he was happy to see several items included in the budget like the Infrastructure Grant and Recreation Trust Fund. He closed by thanking County staff and residents for doing their part in mitigating the spread of COVID-19 as well as first responders for keeping their communities safe during these trying times.

Freeholder Kowalski offered her condolences to the families of those that have succumbed to COVID-19. She encouraged residents to take the necessary precautions to remain healthy and adhere to the prescribed social distancing guidelines. She thanked everyone for their meal contributions to the COVID-19 Drive Through testing Center at Kean University, including Cranford flag groups.

She also thanked Mayor Patrick Giblin for keeping Cranford residents updated on matters relative to COVID-19. She acknowledged the work of local and state representatives at the federal level to ensure that NJ receives the necessary funding to recover from COVID-19 and its aftermath, in particular Senators Menendez and Booker. She closed by thanking County Manager Oatman and Deputy County Manager Wagner as well as the various Directors and acknowledged parents and teachers for their increased efforts during these difficult times.

Freeholder Garretson thanked everyone involved with the 2020 Budget, commending them for an incredible job. She acknowledged those impacted by COVID-19 and encouraged residents to take the necessary steps to remain safe and healthy. She noted the prevalence of COVID-19 amongst minority populations, noting an upcoming Minority Committee meeting during which these and others matters including the 2020 Census would be discussed. She closed by thanking those on the frontlines for their sacrifice and continued dedication.

Vice Chairman Estrada commended Freeholder Granados and the Fiscal Committee for the 2020 Budget as well as everyone else involved. He recognized County Manager Oatman, Deputy County Manager Wagner, and Director Taylor for their efforts and tremendous leadership relative to the budget. On a different note, he spoke relative to the difficult circumstances evoked by COVID-19 and extended his thoughts and prayers to those adversely affected by the pandemic. He noted that NJ was reporting approximately 100,000 cases of COVID-19 state-wide, acknowledging the importance of testing to mitigate the spread of the virus. He commended local and state officials for their efforts to ensure the safety and security of their residents, particularly Mayor Bollwage of Elizabeth. On another note, Vice Chairman Estrada recognized UCVTS for placing 8th, 9th, and 10th on *U.S News & World Report's* "2020 Best High Schools" list. He closed by thanking those on the frontlines for working under such difficult conditions.

Chairman Mirabella spoke relative to the COVID-19 Drive-Through Testing Center at Kean University and thanked Kean President Fahari again for allowing the county to operate the testing facility on site. He noted the incredible effort of health care professionals, county staff, and the National Guard for their dedicated efforts in facilitating this resource. He thanked County Manager Oatman for his leadership. He thanked Vicki Durbin-Drake for her efforts in making sure those on site were properly taken care of with food and other resources. Chairman Mirabella expressed his pride over the tremendous demonstrations of unity and selflessness evoked by COVID-19. He spoke relative to reopening efforts, noting he did not support a speedy reopening process which could potentially worsen an already difficult situation and prolong the prevalence and presence of COVID-19. He added that he would rely on county and state leadership to determine the proper course of action. He close by encouraging residents to continue social distancing measures and take the necessary precautions to stay safe.

ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Mirabella asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. On a motion made by Freeholder Granados and seconded by Freeholder Palmieri-Moued voice vote showed nine members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:46 PM.

UNION COUNTY BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS 2020 MEETING SCHEDULE

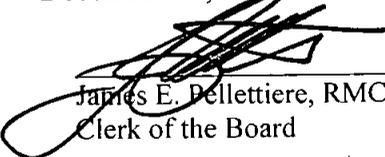
Please note that meetings are regularly held on Thursday evenings. Agenda Setting Sessions and Regular Meetings are held at 6:30 PM in the Freeholders' Meeting Room, Administration Building, 10 Elizabethtown Plaza, 6th Floor, Elizabeth, New Jersey, unless otherwise specified. In the event an Agenda Setting Session and Regular Meeting are held on the same night, the Agenda Setting Session will commence at 6:30 PM and the Regular Meeting will commence as soon as possible after the Agenda Setting Session.

Persons requiring a sign language interpreter should contact the Office of the Clerk of the Board at 908-527-4140.

REORGANIZATION MEETING - SUNDAY, JANUARY 5, 2020 at 12:00 pm
Assignment Judge Karen M. Cassidy's Courtroom, 2 Broad Street, Elizabeth, NJ

2020 MEETING SCHEDULE

<u>AGENDA SETTING SESSION</u>	<u>REGULAR MEETINGS</u>
January 23, 2020	January 23, 2020
February 6, 2020 February 20, 2020	February 6, 2020 February 20, 2020
March 5, 2020 March 26, 2020	March 5, 2020 March 26, 2020
April 2, 2020 April 23, 2020	April 2, 2020 April 23, 2020
May 14, 2020 May 21, 2020	May 14, 2020 May 21, 2020
June 4, 2020 June 18, 2020	June 4, 2020 June 18, 2020
July 23, 2020	July 23, 2020
August 13, 2020	August 13, 2020
September 3, 2020 September 10, 2020	September 3, 2020 September 10, 2020
October 1, 2020 October 15, 2020	October 1, 2020 October 15, 2020
November 5, 2020 November 12, 2020	November 5, 2020 November 12, 2020
December 3, 2020 December 10, 2020	December 3, 2020 December 10, 2020


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