



UNION COUNTY BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS

THURSDAY, MARCH 12, 2015
REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

Chairman Mohamed S. Jalloh presided and called the meeting to order at 7:43 pm. Roll call showed, Vice Chairman Bruce Bergen, Freeholder Linda Carter, Freeholder Angel G. Estrada, Freeholder Sergio Granados, Freeholder Christopher Hudak, Freeholder Bette Jane Kowalski, Freeholder Alexander Mirabella, and Freeholder Vernell Wright were in attendance.

Also present were County Manager Alfred Faella, County Counsel Robert E. Barry, Esq. and Clerk of the Board James Pelletiere.

The Prayer and Salute to the Flag was led by the Clerk of the Board.

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

COMMUNICATIONS

Note and File

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

ORDINANCE FOR ADOPTION

- 763-2015** An ordinance to amend "The Laws of Union County: Administration Code and Policies and General Legislation" by amending Chapter 2-Article IV-Fees for Recreation Facilities for the year 2015.

PUBLIC COMMENT PORTION

The meeting is open to the public for the purpose of commenting on Ordinance Number 763-2015 only.

Bruce Paterson, Garwood, asked for an overview of the Ordinance and specifically asked as to why there is an increased in the fees.

Director Zuber stated that the Ordinance creates a new junior players rate and increases the rates of "non-county resident" fees.

FINAL READING STATEMENT

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

PUBLIC COMMENT PORTION

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

Pat Mochetti, New Providence, spoke on the following Resolutions:

Relative to 2014-218, he asked why it was an exception to bidding. Relative to 2015-228, he stated that it doesn't go "inch by inch or go the full mile". Relative to 2015-230, he asked what were the highlights of the plan and if the five year plan includes the merging of the County Police with the Office of the Sheriff. Relative to 2015-235, he asked what were the criteria used in selecting the RBA Group. He asked how many consultant firms were interviewed and how was the fee determined.

With regard to Resolution Number 2015-218, County Counsel Barry stated it is an exception to the bidding process as it is being obtained through a state contract.

With regard to Resolution Number 2015-228, Chairman Jalloh stated that this resolution is an attempt to address the issue in full. He noted that things may come about that will require some further tweaking, and that the Board would be prepared to address such at said time.

With regard to Resolution Number 2015-230, Lt. Kurz stated that it is a requirement of the Constitutional Officers to submit a 5 year plan when dealing with Trust Fund monies. He stated that the previous five year plan predicted the five-year revenues, ending in 2014, to be \$113,359 when the actual revenue was \$112,778. He added that they gauge a 5% increase each year at an initial \$20,500 in 2015 and increasing \$500 each year, to be used for the modernization of the Sheriff Business Office.

Vice Chairman Bergen stated it is not a 5 year plan used for the entire operation of the Sheriff's Office. He clarified that this plan is specific to the prediction and utilization of Trust Fund dollars. He added that the plan is a simple one page plan.

With regard to Resolution Number 2015-235, Deputy County Manager/Director Reyes called upon Liza Betz to provide some clarification. Mrs. Betz stated that the funding was received as federal funds through the North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority and the County was obligated to follow the federal process of the advertisement of the Request for Proposals for the study. She stated that as part of the proposal, a sheet listing the seven criteria in which submissions would be judged were part of the proposal. She identified that they received four proposals. She added that the selection committee reviewed the proposals and recommends the RBA Group based on the seven criteria. The amount was noted not to exceed \$240,000 in the proposal.

Bruce Paterson, Garwood, spoke on the following Resolutions:

Relative to 2015-221, he asked for an explanation of the internal position control. Relative to, 2015-222, he asked if anyone is going to vote no and questioned why the resolution would use the verbiage “grossly inappropriate”. Relative to 2015-229, he commended the Board on trying to get a handle on the sick leave and the worker’s compensation policy. Relative to 2015-230, he stated the wording of the resolution (Sheriff’s Five Year Plan) is misleading, and noted it was easy to think that it was a major plan and not just a minor report. Relative to 2015-235, he asked if the County considering the inclusion of electric charging station across the county, and/or the inclusion of propane gas cars. He asked who was on the committee and why the \$240,000 was listed in the notice for the RFP. Relative to 2015-240, he stated there should be a specific pay-to-play law within the County, noting that the law firm of Decotiis Fitzpatrick made campaign contributions. Relative to 2015-243, he asked what exactly is a Memorandum of Agreement, specifically asked if it referred to some type of salary agreement.

He thanked the Chairman for the leeway to go beyond the allotted time to speak.

With regard to Resolution Number 2015-221, County Manager Faella stated that involves a change in schedule for an individual within the Department of Economic Development.

With regard to Resolution Number 2015-221, Freeholder Hudak thanked Senators Lesniak and Scutari, Assemblywoman Quijano, the Mayor and City Council of Linden, the Legislators throughout the State, as well as members of Congress for expressing outrage over this “slap in the face” to the people of my city, of this county, to the residents in this room. He stated that the \$225 million represents 2% of an estimated \$8.9 billion dollar settlement over damages done over the course of a century; mostly in Union County, as well in Hudson and Bayonne. He added that this area equates to 1,500 acres of wetland, comprising about three square miles. He added that residents in our community live on that waterfront; adding that he, himself, lived on that waterfront for the first 19 years of his life, just three blocks away from that refinery on McGillivray Place in Linden. He added that he was enraged that the administration would “sell out” the residents of this community with this settlement. He stated that the 2% will not go to remediate wetlands in Union County; it is rather going to be a one-time budget fix by the Governor and will leave a future budget hole. He noted that this is not the first time this administration has done this, and referenced the Passaic River cleanup settlement for \$190 million, where only \$140 million was allocated into the budget. He stated that he was happy the Chairman allowed him to bring this resolution to the agenda and thanked the Board for its support.

With regard to Resolution Number 2015-235, County Manager Faella stated that part of the master plan will include types of alternative energy source transportation. He added that \$240,000 was the amount the State had allocated for the grant and stated that as per state requirement, a member of NJTPA was part of the scoring and part of the evaluation committee.

Freeholder Estrada stated the terminology Master Plan explains clearly what we are trying to do. He spoke on the importance of the County having such a plan, and its

relevance to future funding. He added that the master plan includes issues concerning safe roads, buses, trains, and paratransit for the elderly. He spoke on the County's airport and seaport. He added that the dollar amount was the maximum the federal government allowed for this particular grant. Freeholder Estrada said he is looking forward to the plan.

Freeholder Kowalski stated it is vital to have the Master Plan in order to be eligible for federal funding so that we can continue to improve transportation throughout the County.

With regard to Resolution Number 2015-243, Director Albert stated that it is a Memorandum of Agreement with FMBA, Local 2343 (seven hazmat employees) which runs through the end of this year. He added that this is one of the 23 unions (local bargaining units). He stated that the agreement is along the lines of the 2% cap and along the line with other settlements in the County.

John Bury, Kenilworth, made comments relative to Resolution Number 2015-222 (2015-221) regarding the \$225 million settlement with Exxon, stating that there are some conflicting stories. He referenced a Wall Street Journal article claiming that it is a lawsuit. He didn't think the Board should condemn the settlement. He spoke on the process and how they have an incentive to settle due to status of the New Jersey budget. He compared the selling of Runnells Specialized Hospital to the Exxon settlement, citing \$457,000 being used towards this year's budget.

Chairman Jalloh thanked the speaker for his comments; however he stated that he respectfully disagreed with the speaker's comments relative to such a comparison. He asked the Director of Finance to address some of the financial numbers the speaker made claims to that he felt were inaccurate.

Director Taylor stated the \$457,000 the speaker referred to is a required amount that we have to anticipate in revenue to offset the notes previously authorized for Runnells Hospital. She stated that there are no other proceeds from the sale of Runnells Specialized Hospital in the executive budget as presented by the County Manger. She added that the Executive Budget that is presented is within the state mandatory caps without any additional proceeds from Runnells Hospital. She added that those proceeds are reserved on our balance sheet as Sale of Asset and all of those funds are set aside, noting that the only exception is the amount reserved for debt service, which was less than \$6 million dollars.

RESOLUTIONS

The following Resolutions are being offered for adoption:

- 2015-217 FREEHOLDER SERGIO GRANADOS:** Authorizing the County Manager, through the office of Cultural & Heritage Affairs, to reallocate funds received from the NJSCA to 32 Union County agencies and organizations as recommended by the Arts Grant Committee of the Cultural and Heritage Programs Advisory Board and subsequently approved by the entire Advisory Board. The total amount of the grant received is \$144,813.

On a motion by Freeholder Granados and seconded by Freeholder Hudak, roll call showed 8 members voted in the affirmative with Freeholder Carter abstaining.

- 2015-218 FREEHOLDER SERGIO GRANADOS:** Awarding a contract to Rubbercycle, Lakewood, NJ, as an exception to bidding under NJSA 40A:11-12 - New Jersey State Contract # 81417-T0103 for the purchase of playground materials in an amount not to exceed \$120,000 for use at various playgrounds throughout the County Park System.

On a motion by Freeholder Granados and seconded by Freeholder Hudak, roll call showed 9 members voted in the affirmative.

- 2015-219 FREEHOLDER SERGIO GRANADOS:** Authorizing the County Manager to award the proposed contract obtained through advertised public bidding in accordance with the Local Public Contracts Law, NJSA 40A:11-1 et seq: Department of Parks and Recreation: Ray's Food & Ice Cream Concessions, Inc., Woodland Park, NJ, for the purpose of providing boating and food, for a twenty-four (24) month contract period with an additional twenty-four (24) month extension option in the amount of \$13,440.00 per 7 month season for grand total of \$26,880.00 over 24 month contract period.

On a motion by Freeholder Granados and seconded by Freeholder Hudak, roll call showed 9 members voted in the affirmative.

- 2015-220 FREEHOLDER CHRISTOPHER HUDAK:** Amending the 2015 Temporary Budget Ch. 96 P.L. 1951 (N.J.S.A. 40A:4-20).

On a motion by Freeholder Granados and seconded by Freeholder Hudak, roll call showed 9 members voted in the affirmative.

- 2015-221 FREEHOLDER CHRISTOPHER HUDAK:** Authorizing the County Manager to adjust and/or change the Internal Position Control Schedules.

On a motion by Freeholder Granados and seconded by Freeholder Hudak, roll call showed 9 members voted in the affirmative.

- 2015-222 FREEHOLDER CHRISTOPHER HUDAK & THE ENTIRE BOARD:** Resolution strongly condemns and opposes the State of New Jersey's proposed settlement with Exxon Mobile Corporation for \$225 million because it is grossly inappropriate, improper, and wholly inadequate.

On a motion by Freeholder Granados and seconded by Freeholder Hudak, roll call showed 9 members voted in the affirmative.

- 2015-223 FREEHOLDER CHRISTOPHER HUDAK:** Authorizing the County Manager to enter into a contract with G&G Technologies, Inc., through a non-fair and open process as per N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20.4, for the purchase and installation of high-definition digital audio-video production equipment in an amount not to exceed \$35,965.00.

On a motion by Freeholder Granados and seconded by Freeholder Hudak, roll call showed 9 members voted in the affirmative.

- 2015-224 FREEHOLDER BETTE JANE KOWALSKI:** Amending Resolution 2013-886 to extend the current 2013-2014 HEARTH Emergency Solutions (HES) Spending Plan an additional nine months through April 30, 2015 for subcontracted services to be provided by Bridgeway Rehabilitation Center only with no change in the amount of funds allocated under the approved 2013-2014 HEARTH Emergency Solutions (HES) Spending Plan; further authorizing the transfer of funds among the funded agencies during the contract period should service needs change and/or if any of the agencies fails to meet its contractual obligation.

On a motion by Freeholder Granados and seconded by Freeholder Hudak, roll call showed 8 members voted in the affirmative with Vice Chairman Bergen abstaining.

- 2015-225 FREEHOLDER BETTE JANE KOWALSKI:** Authorizing the County Manager to apply for and obtain a grant from the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs (NJDCA) in the approximate amount of \$11,544 for the CWA Administration of the 2015 Universal Service Fund.

On a motion by Freeholder Granados and seconded by Freeholder Hudak, roll call showed 9 members voted in the affirmative.

- 2015-226 FREEHOLDER BETTE JANE KOWALSKI:** Amending Resolution 2015-64 to establish appropriation accounts for each subcontract award in the Union County Youth Services Commission Spending Plan and to provide for one additional award to Trinitas Regional Medical Center, in the amount of \$50,000, for a new total amount not to exceed \$511,656 for the grant period of January 1, 2015 through December 31, 2015; further authorizing the transfer of funds among the funded agencies/municipalities during the contract period should service needs change and/or if any of the funded agencies/municipalities fails to meet its contractual obligation, upon approval by the Juvenile Justice Commission.

On a motion by Freeholder Granados and seconded by Freeholder Hudak, roll call showed 9 members voted in the affirmative.

- 2015-227 FREEHOLDER VERNELL WRIGHT:** Authorizing the County Manager to enter into a contract with Eshban Muthuka, APN, Somerset, New Jersey, a practitioner nurse to provide professional services for the patients of the Cornerstone Behavioral Health Hospital of Union County from the period of March 1, 2015 through April 1, 2016 in an amount not to exceed \$110,000.00.

On a motion by Freeholder Granados and seconded by Freeholder Hudak, roll call showed 9 members voted in the affirmative.

- 2015-228 FREEHOLDER VERNELL WRIGHT:** Appointing Joseph Hugh DaRold and Elizabeth A. Fennik to the Union County Advisory Council on Aging for a term commencing January 1, 2015 through December 31, 2017.

On a motion by Freeholder Granados and seconded by Freeholder Hudak, roll call showed 9 members voted in the affirmative.

- 2015-229 VICE CHAIRMAN BRUCE H. BERGEN:** Approving the adoption of The County of Union, Sick Leave and Workers' Compensation Verification Policy.

On a motion by Freeholder Granados and seconded by Freeholder Hudak, roll call showed 9 members voted in the affirmative.

- 2015-230 CHAIRMAN MOHAMED S. JALLOH:** Approving the 2015 Union County Sheriff's Five Year Plan.

On a motion by Freeholder Granados and seconded by Freeholder Hudak, roll call showed 9 members voted in the affirmative.

- 2015-231 CHAIRMAN MOHAMED S. JALLOH:** Amending resolution #2014-136, adopted February 6, 2014, with Iselin Veterinary Hospital, Iselin, New Jersey, for an additional \$1,419.80 for veterinary services and food for the Sheriff's K-9 Unit for the contract period January 1, 2014 through December 31, 2014 in the amount not to exceed \$26,419.80.

On a motion by Freeholder Granados and seconded by Freeholder Hudak, roll call showed 9 members voted in the affirmative.

- 2015-232 CHAIRMAN MOHAMED S. JALLOH:** Authorizing the County Manager to renew the Public Official Bond with the Hartford Fire Insurance Company for Julie Origliato, from February 10, 2015 through February 10, 2016 in the amount of \$1,199.00.

On a motion by Freeholder Granados and seconded by Freeholder Hudak, roll call showed 9 members voted in the affirmative.

- 2015-233 CHAIRMAN MOHAMED S. JALLOH:** Authorizing the County Manager to request approval of a contract to be executed to the Union County Economic Development Corporation not to exceed \$100,000.00 for the contract period of January 1, 2015 to December 31, 2015 to provide Procurement Training/Technical Assistance and Associated General Economic Development Services to private businesses in Union County.

On a motion by Freeholder Granados and seconded by Freeholder Hudak, roll call showed 9 members voted in the affirmative.

- 2015-234 CHAIRMAN MOHAMED S. JALLOH:** Authorizing the County Manager to request approval of a contract to be executed to the Union County Economic Development Corporation not to exceed \$70,000.00 for the contract period of January 1, 2015 to December 31, 2015 to provide general economic development services to private businesses in Union County.

On a motion by Freeholder Granados and seconded by Freeholder Hudak, roll call showed 9 members voted in the affirmative.

- 2015-235 CHAIRMAN MOHAMED S. JALLOH:** Authorizing the County Manager to enter into an agreement with The RBA Group, Inc., Parsippany, New Jersey, to provide professional services for the transportation planning study entitled, "Union County Transportation Master Plan" in an amount not to exceed \$240,000.00.

On a motion by Freeholder Granados and seconded by Freeholder Hudak, roll call showed 9 members voted in the affirmative.

- 2015-236 CHAIRMAN MOHAMED S. JALLOH:** Amending Resolution #2015-80, appointing Amy Wagner, Deputy Director, Department of Economic Development as the Fair Housing Officer for the County of Union, to include additional language as required by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and New Jersey Department of Community Affairs.

On a motion by Freeholder Granados and seconded by Freeholder Hudak, roll call showed 9 members voted in the affirmative.

- 2015-237 CHAIRMAN MOHAMED S. JALLOH:** Resolution concurring with the Township of Berkeley Heights granting permission to Smith Chiropractic to hang a banner on Plainfield Avenue from August 17, 2015 to September 21, 2015 for the Annual Smith Chiropractic 5K Run.

On a motion by Freeholder Granados and seconded by Freeholder Hudak, roll call showed 9 members voted in the affirmative.

- 2015-238 CHAIRMAN MOHAMED S. JALLOH:** Resolution concurring with the Township of Springfield granting permission to St. James the Apostle Church to close South Springfield Avenue between Mountain Avenue and Shunpike Road from April 28th to May 1st from 6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. and May 2nd from 2:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. for the Annual Festival, and to hang a banner from April 1, 2015 to May 4, 2015.

On a motion by Freeholder Granados and seconded by Freeholder Hudak, roll call showed 9 members voted in the affirmative.

- 2015-239 CHAIRMAN MOHAMED S. JALLOH:** Resolution concurring with the City of Summit granting permission to Our House Foundation to close Broad Street from Summit Avenue to Maple Street between 8:00 a.m. and 12:00 p.m. on Saturday, May 30, 2015 for the 5-Mile Run Event.

On a motion by Freeholder Granados and seconded by Freeholder Hudak, roll call showed 9 members voted in the affirmative.

- 2015-240 CHAIRMAN MOHAMED S. JALLOH:** Resolution replacing Antonelli Michello, P.C. of Union, NJ with Decotiis Fitzpatrick & Cole of Teaneck, NJ to represent Carl Cunningham and Alberto Rodriguez in the matter entitled Shiquon Fowler v. County of Union, et al for a sum not to exceed \$20,000.00

On a motion by Freeholder Granados and seconded by Freeholder Hudak, roll call showed 9 members voted in the affirmative.

2015-241 CHAIRMAN MOHAMED S. JALLOH: Settlement in lieu of litigation relative to 28 Prince Street in an amount not to exceed \$63,750.00

On a motion by Freeholder Granados and seconded by Freeholder Hudak, roll call showed 9 members voted in the affirmative.

2015-242 CHAIRMAN MOHAMED S. JALLOH: A Resolution approving a 5 year lease agreement with 28 Prince Street Realty for 26 parking spaces at 28 Prince Street, Elizabeth in amount the amount of \$70.00 per space per month commencing January 1, 2015 through December 31, 2019 in amount not to exceed \$109,200.00

On a motion by Freeholder Granados and seconded by Freeholder Hudak, roll call showed 9 members voted in the affirmative.

2015-243 CHAIRMAN MOHAMED S. JALLOH: Authorizing the County Manager to sign any and all documents necessary to enter into a Memorandum of Agreement with the FMBA, NAGE Local R-2343, effective January 1, 2015 through December 31, 2015.

On a motion by Freeholder Granados and seconded by Freeholder Hudak, roll call showed 9 members voted in the affirmative.

FREEHOLDER SPONSORED RESOLUTIONS

2015-244 FREEHOLDER SERGIO GRANADOS: Laudatory resolution congratulating the 11 Young Professional Honorees to be recognized by the Urban League of Union County.

On a motion by Freeholder Granados and seconded by Freeholder Hudak, roll call showed 9 members voted in the affirmative.

2015-245 FREEHOLDER SERGIO GRANADOS: Laudatory resolution congratulating the Portuguese Instructive Social Club of Elizabeth as they celebrate their 93rd Anniversary on March 21, 2015.

On a motion by Freeholder Granados and seconded by Freeholder Hudak, roll call showed 9 members voted in the affirmative.

2015-246 FREEHOLDER BETTE JANE KOWALSKI: Laudatory resolution congratulating the Officers and the Executive Board of the Association of Bi-State Motor Carriers on their recognition by the Elizabeth Coalition to House the Homeless at their 3rd Annual Transportation, Logistics and Distribution Industries Breakfast.

On a motion by Freeholder Granados and seconded by Freeholder Hudak, roll call showed 9 members voted in the affirmative.

2015-247 FREEHOLDER BETTE JANE KOWALSKI & VICE CHAIRMAN BRUCE H. BERGEN: Laudatory resolution congratulating Thomas & Cindy Hannen on their recognition by the Cranford Knights of Columbus Council 6226 as "Irishman and Irishwoman of the Year" at their annual St. Patrick's Dinner on March 7, 2015.

On a motion by Freeholder Granados and seconded by Freeholder Hudak, roll call showed 9 members voted in the affirmative.

- 2015-248 FREEHOLDER BETTE JANE KOWALSKI:** Laudatory resolution congratulating the Cranford Historic Murals Restoration Project and its members on receiving the Historic Preservation Recognition Award from the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution.

On a motion by Freeholder Granados and seconded by Freeholder Hudak, roll call showed 9 members voted in the affirmative.

- 2015-249 CHAIRMAN MOHAMED S. JALLOH & THE ENTIRE BOARD:** Resolution offering this Board's deepest sympathies to the family of Jean Foley, former Union County Recreation Bureau Chief and dedicated 32-year County employee, during their time of sorrow.

On a motion by Freeholder Granados and seconded by Freeholder Hudak, roll call showed 9 members voted in the affirmative.

- 2015-250 FREEHOLDER VERNELL WRIGHT:** Resolution offering this Board's deepest sympathies to the family of Lenard Horton, Sr., during their time of sorrow.

On a motion by Freeholder Granados and seconded by Freeholder Hudak, roll call showed 9 members voted in the affirmative.

PUBLIC COMMENT PORTION

This meeting is open to the public comment on any governmental issue that a member of the public feels may be of concern to the residents of the county.

Clifford Jefferson Elbey, Plainfield, on behalf of the Moorish Science Temple of America, spoke in regards issues they are having relative to filing legal documentation proclaiming their freed national name with the County Clerk Office. He inquired as to why they are being turned away and why the file has been removed, reclassified or moved.

Chairman Jalloh stated that the Board will reach out to the County Clerk.

Pat Mochetti, New Providence, made comments regarding the 2015 Budget. He spoke on how large organizations generally can save 5% of their budget with rational decision making. He stated that a third party investigation could find a 5% savings without effecting programs.

He made comments regarding the budget hearing earlier this evening. He spoke on the overtime issues in Corrections.

He spoke on the news regarding Linda Stender. He advised the Board to meet with her to determine whether she should still be employed by the County of Union.

Earl (inaudible), Plainfield, on behalf of the Moorish Science Temple of America, spoke in regards to proclaiming free-national names and having these proclamations recorded within our local government and opening an avenue for citizens to actively participate in their affairs of government in the community.

Bruce Paterson, Garwood, apologized for his outburst at the end of the meeting two week ago. He stated now that the Board had two weeks to reflect, he would ask the same questions again. He questioned if there is a conflict of interest with Freeholder Mirabella's position as Business Administrator and Union County Freeholder. He questioned what the basis was on the opinion rendered by County Counsel and if Freeholder Mirabella will be allowed to vote on the 2015 County Budget.

He made comments relative to the County Manager's Executive Budget. He questioned the base of the ratables within the County to understand the percentage increase. He questioned the \$15 million in savings in expenditures, but a \$6 million tax increase.

He made comments relative to an article in last week's Westfield Leader regarding Freeholder Mirabella reading to children. He questioned whether or not his duties as as the business administrator for Scotch Plains were conflicted with his duties as Freeholder.

John Bury, Kenilworth, spoke in regards to the sale of Runnells Specialized Hospital, citing that it is difficult to follow the trail of the \$26 million with the UCIA involved. He stated that the sale of Runnells, which was running \$13 million in the deficit and resulted in \$26 million in revenues, was supposed to help the budget. He questioned if the Board sold Runnells to fund the solar-panel (Tioga) debt of \$15 million in bonds.

He spoke on the current operations of Runnells. He spoke on Governor's fiscal trickery and gimmicks. He made comments relative to the County's use of \$7 million of the Open Space Trust Fund for parks maintenance.

FREEHOLDER REPORTS AND COMMENTS

Freeholder Kowalski made comments relative to the budget; stating that the County is in the middle of the budget process and the final budget has not been presented. She disagreed with the comments made by the speaker relative to simply cut the budget by 5%. She spoke on the complications of the County Budget and the discussions had during the Budget Hearings. She spoke of the various Human Services programs that have been cut in State funding over the years and the ever expanding lines at the welfare offices. She stated that the Board must take action and take care of people. She said the Board is taking care of people and doing so economically.

She spoke on the "3rd Annual Garden Conference" run by Rutgers Cooperative Extension and held at the Trailside Nature & Science Center on February 28, 2015.

She said she was pleased to visit and spoke on its success, noting that people learned how to set up community gardens and get the resources and aide to do so. She added that it was gratifying to see such an enthusiastic turnout. She stated that more than 50-60 educators and volunteers attended this year's event. She added that vegetables grown in these community gardens are given to food banks and charitable organizations.

Freeholder Kowalski thanked the correctional officers and sheriff officers who participated in the basketball game to raise funds for the Elizabeth Coalition to House the Homeless. She stated the Union County officers played well, but the noted members of the PSE&G and Elizabeth Police Department played a little better. She also acknowledged that Mayor Bollwage, City of Elizabeth, attended the games and thanked him for his support.

Freeholder Kowalski made comments relative to the Teen Arts, noting that students from all across the County will present their art work and/or their performances. She encouraged the public to attend the event.

Freeholder Kowalski made comments relative to the energy settlement with Exxon. She added that the Board supports Freeholder Hudak's comments and tonight's resolution. She spoke on the various letters and correspondence the Board has received relative to the Pilgrim Pipeline. She advised the public that the Board has limited jurisdiction, but have taken a stand against the project by denying the company access to county parklands. She noted that other permitting is done through the State and not the County. She also noted that many towns within the County have passed resolutions opposing the pipeline as well.

Freeholder Carter congratulated this year's Women of Excellence awardees. She stated that the Women of Excellence Awards, supported by the Freeholder Board, honor distinguished women who reside or work in Union County, adding that the candidates are nominated based on their achievements and the impact of their work on our community. She stated that the County will be celebrating our awardees at the 23rd annual Women of Excellence dinner on March 20 at Galloping Hill Caterers in Union Township. She announced the 2015 honorees: Karolina Szatkowski - Women's Advocacy, Tricia Nering - Humanitarianism, Kathy Lloyd - Media, Reverend Joy Mounts - Youth Advocacy, Ceil Mantia - Lifetime Achievement, Cynthia Alexander - Community Leader, Lynne Fitzpatrick - Business Leader, Amy Boroff - Entrepreneurship, Erica Bell Foster - Education and Detective Adrian Gardner - Law Enforcement. She congratulated all the honorees.

Freeholder Estrada congratulated the Union County College Girls Basketball Team on winning their Regional Championship. He added that today they had a pep-rally and are now playing for the Conference Championship. He wished them luck.

Freeholder Mirabella noted that he often doesn't respond to public comment, and that he understood that he and Mr. Paterson have had their differences over the years, but he felt obligated to disagree with Mr. Paterson's comments relative to Read Across America. He spoke on his tradition, over 18 years as Freeholder, to

participate in the Read Across America event. He noted that such events typically take place after-hours, and participated with Freeholder Wright and Freeholder Granados at 5:30pm. He noted Freeholder Granados chose a very lengthy book. He noted on the wonderful and beneficial event.

Freeholder Mirabella stated that he was looking forward towards Saturday's Saint Patrick Day Parade; adding that he takes great pride in being a quarter Irish. He congratulated and wished Dr. McMenamin, the Grand Marshall, a great day.

Freeholder Mirabella mentioned, on a sad note, the loss of Jean Foley. He noted that he attended her wake earlier in the day. He spoke on her efforts in recreation programming and her advocacy of the Watchung Stables.

Freeholder Hudak made comment relative to the 2nd Annual UC-STEP campaign, designated as "Donate to Educate -- Schools Supplying Schools." He stated that this project was designed by a team of high school students, to help unite their peers and the whole Union County community in support of students whose families cannot afford school supplies. He added that teams of students will be publicizing the campaign, collecting supplies and donations, and organizing them for distribution, with support from the Freeholder Board. He stated that the UC-STEP stands for the Union County Student Training and Enrichment Program and advised that it is an initiative of Freeholder Linda Carter, when she was Freeholder Chair in 2013.

Freeholder Hudak congratulated Clerk of the Board Pelletiere for the resolution to purchase and installation of high-definition digital audio-video production equipment for the Freeholders meeting room. He stated that this will allow for better video quality and allow county staff to expedite sending the meetings out to cable networks. He stated that the system will offer other functions in terms of internet usage. The goal is to get information out to the public, so they are more informed on what is going on throughout the County.

Freeholder Hudak made comments relative to various speakers' comments regarding the budget. He stated that he was very happy with the budget considering where the County was, in terms of fiscal soundness, three years ago. He commended the leadership of the County Administration and CFO, noting they have done a great job in spite of external pressures from the State mandated costs and cuts and cuts in the Community Development Block Grant programs. He noted that it is not a bad thing that the Board has found efficiencies to continue many of those programs. He noted that he was pleased people coming out to the budget hearing and spoke of the

budget process. He added that the County is headed in the right direction, fiscally, in this County.

Freeholder Granados spoke on the increased amount of pot-holes throughout the County. He advised the public of an online form on the County's website that they can use to notify the County. He advised the public, if they do not have access to a computer, or if they prefer, they can contract Director Grazanio at 908-789-3660.

Freeholder Wright made comments regarding the St. Patrick Day Parade as a resident of Union Township. She stated that she is very proud to support one of the most popular events of the year. She made comments regarding the family friendly festivities, that kick off at noon at the intersection of Morris and Stuyvesant Avenues in Union Center. She added that there will be traditional Irish music and step-dancing, activities for children, and of course, the parade -- featuring high school marching bands along with the Union County Police & Fire Pipes & Drums, the St. Columille United Gaelic Pipe Band, and much more.

Freeholder Wright stated that she attended a ribbon cutting at Union County College, Elizabeth Campus in recognition of their new science lab. She said, as a former science teacher, she was very impressed with the lab and congratulated Union County College.

Vice Chairman Bergen made comments regarding the budget. He refuted Mr. Paterson's comments relative to the budget. He noted that the County Manager Faella has presented the Board with a very good and lean budget, noting that the Board will ensure they do everything they can do to keep the tax increase to our residents as low as possible. He added that it is already lower than it has been in many years.

Vice Chairman Bergen advised Mr. Paterson that County Counsel Barry is the counsel to the Board, and that any legal advice is for the Board and is protected by attorney client privilege. He reiterated that his legal advice is for the Board.

Vice Chairman Bergen made comments relative to Mr. Bury's comments regarding the sale of Runnells Specialized Hospital, citing that there was a great deal of misinformation and innuendo, rumor resulting in nothing of substance to speak on. He did state that comparing the settlement with Exxon and the sale of Runnells Specialized Hospital is not a comparison of two likes.

Vice Chairman Bergen spoke on his concerns relative to the Exxon settlement; notably the fact that Governor's personal counsel leading the settlement of the case and the fact that funds were going into the state budget to cover state debt. He questioned the Governor's motives for the settlement.

Vice Chairman Bergen stated that thousands of Union County residents use our free countywide recycling services every year, and that he was happy to report that after its annual winter hiatus, the County's recycling season is under way again.

He advised the public that the County offers scheduled recycling “events” for secure paper shredding, electronic waste, and special household wastes. In addition, he added, the County has convenient drop-off points around the County for scrap metal, electronic waste, propane tanks, used motor oil, tires, and fluorescent light bulbs. He noted that these services are all free, and that not only do they save residents money, but they ensure that hazardous waste are taken out of the environment.

County Counsel Barry made comments relative to Vice Chairman Bergen’s opinion, of which he agrees wholeheartedly, regarding this “conflict” issue that has been raised. He stated that he believes the speaker in question is confusing what is commonly referred to as “incompatibility of office” versus a “conflict of interest”. He stated that it is his conclusion that the appointed position of a business administrator is not incompatible with the elected office of a freeholder.

Chairman Jalloh extended his condolences to the family of Jean Foley. He said he witnessed her ardent advocacy for the Watchung Stables. He added that she will be sorely missed.

Chairman Jalloh stated that he has some Irish heritage as well, and was looking forward to the St. Patrick’s Day Parade.

Chairman Jalloh made comments relative to the 2014 Budget. He echoed the sentiments of his colleagues before him. He stated that last year the County was able to introduce the lowest tax levy in 14 years, adding that this year’s proposed Executive Budget is even lower than last year’s adopted budget while still providing the services that residents have come to expect.

Chairman Jalloh made comments relative to the Exxon Settlement. He respectfully disagreed with the speaker’s comments comparing the Exxon Settlement and the sale of Runnells Specialized Hospital as similar. He stated that a settlement of a lawsuit to a 3rd Party is totally different from a government taking its responsibility to take a portion of its operation and determine that it is cut and yet still provide the services, but just not directly through the government.

Chairman Jalloh made comments relative to the UC ACT production of Dream Girl at the Union County Performing Art Center on Friday, Saturday and Sunday. He stated that it is an example of bringing Community Theatre to the County of Union. He applauded the talent of those within the County’s Community Theatre. He stated that it is a worthwhile program. He noted that there are applications to utilize the services of the Union County Performing Arts Center. He noted that there may be a few other Arts performances moving forward dependant upon how the budget is adopted.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:13PM.

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

COUNTY BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS 2015 MEETING SCHEDULE

Please note that meetings are regularly held on Thursday evenings. Agenda Setting Sessions and Regular Meetings are held at 7:00pm 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 7:00pm 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 4, 2015 at 12:00pm Assignment Judge Karen M. Cassidy's Courtroom, 2 Broad Street, Elizabeth, NJ

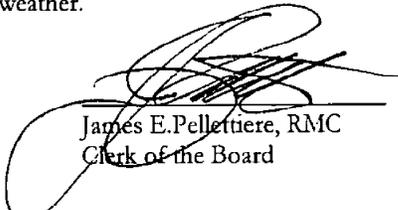
<u>AGENDA SETTING SESSION</u>	<u>REGULAR MEETINGS</u>
January 15, 2015	January 29, 2015
February 5, 2015 February 26, 2015	February 19, 2015 February 26, 2015
March 5, 2015 * March 19, 2015	March 12, 2015 March 26, 2015
April 9, 2015 April 23, 2015	April 16, 2015 April 30, 2015
May 7, 2015 May 28, 2015	May 14, 2015 May 28, 2015
June 11, 2015	June 18, 2015
July 9, 2015	July 16, 2015
August 6, 2015	August 20, 2015
September 3, 2015 September 17, 2015	September 10, 2015 September 24, 2015
October 1, 2015 October 15, 2015	October 8, 2015 October 15, 2015
November 5, 2015	November 12, 2015
December 3, 2015 December 10, 2015	December 3, 2015 December 17, 2015

Notice

Regular Meetings of the Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders Public Comment Portion

Pursuant to the provisions of the N.J.S.A. 10:4-12(a) and the By-Laws of the Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders the "Public Comment Portion" of Regular Meetings is reserved for public comment on any governmental issue that a member of the public feels may be of concern to the residents of the county.

*rescheduled to March 12, 2015 due to severe inclement weather.


James E. Pellettiere, RMC
Clerk of the Board

JEP:ac