



UNION COUNTY BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS

THURSDAY, MAY 12, 2016
REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

Chairman Bruce H. Bergen presided and called the meeting to order at 7:05pm. Roll call showed Vice Chairman Sergio Granados, Freeholder Linda Carter, Freeholder Angel G. Estrada, Freeholder Christopher Hudak, Freeholder Mohamed S. Jalloh, 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 were led by the Clerk of the Board.

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

APPROVAL OF COMMUNICATIONS

Note and File

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

ADOPTION OF THE COLA / CAP BANK RESOLUTION

The meeting is open to the public for the purposes of commenting on Resolution Number 2016-382 only.

2016-382 FREEHOLDER ALEXANDER MIRABELLA: Resolution to exceed the County tax levy limit and to establish a CAP Bank (N.J.S. 40A: 4-45.14).

Bruce Patterson, of Garwood, noted that he had asked questions at the previous meeting when the resolution was introduced and thanked the Board and Director Taylor for its explanation. He stated his pleasure that no CAP monies are being used. He asked why the resolution is not divided into two separate resolutions to exceed the county tax levy limit and establish a CAP Bank. He asked if the County is exceeding the tax levy limit.

Director Taylor advised that the format and language of the resolution is provided by the New Jersey State Division of Local Governmental Services. She stated that the resolution would allow the County to bank any unused portion of the tax levy that the County does not

need, noting that the 2016 CAP established in this resolution is not utilized in the adopted 2016 budget.

John Burry, of Kenilworth, asked how much funds are being placed into the CAP Bank.

Director Taylor advised that the CAP Bank established through this resolution is in the amount of \$8,367,579.11.

Chairman Bergen asked Director Taylor to confirm the figure is listed in the middle of the resolution. Director Taylor confirmed as such.

On a motion made by Freeholder Mirabella and seconded by Freeholder Kowalski, roll call showed 9 members voted in the affirmative.

PUBLIC HEARING AND ADOPTION OF THE 2016 COUNTY OF UNION BUDGET

Prior to opening the meeting for public comments on Resolutions 2016-383 and 2016-384, Chairman Bergen asked Fiscal Chairman Mirabella to offer some comments relative to the budget resolutions.

Chairman Mirabella made the following remarks:

Thank you Chairman Bergen, and through you: following our review of the 2016 budget over the past few months, we are now set to pass it tonight.

Since the County Manager presented his executive budget in February, the Fiscal Committee was able to reduce the tax levy by an additional \$898,226. This was done without any loss of jobs or impact to our services.

The overall result is a tax increase of just 2.98 percent, and the result is an average tax increase of \$50. (I would note, the Governor's proposed budget is at a 3% increase.)

As Chairman Bergen has noted, there are pressures upon the county which make the budget process and our goal to keep taxes down difficult:

(I) The County is responsible for mandated services by the State, without funding from the state— this is not new.

(II) Over the course of time State funding has been reduced—for instance:

Casino Revenue has been diminishing since 2008. We used this money to fund our Paratransit system—which now is funded by the County.

Peer Group Funding has diminished-- to the tune of \$800,000 per year— leaving the county to pick up the tab to continue various social services.

Another example of money the State is not sending the counties, and municipalities for that matter, concerns the Transportation Trust Fund money:

-- Of an estimated \$565M that counties across NJ need to operate and maintain their roads and bridges, the State has funded only about \$79M state wide—leaving counties responsible for more than \$450M
NOTE: County roads and bridges constitute about 35% of the total state's traffic, but receive only about 6.7% of state funding.

Finally, as the County Manager noted in his executive budget, the latest concern is Criminal Justice Reform-- "Bail reform" --this is another UNFUNDED mandate from the State.

Though it may not actually fall within the state mandate/state pay law, it does require all counties to spend money, and as of now there are NO STATE monies to pay.

Despite all this, this year's final Budget demonstrates Union County's continued economic growth and the success of our "sound management and budgeting" practices as validated by Moody's recent determination of an Aa1 bond rating. Another significant measure of Union County's economic growth is the increase in our ratable base by 2.5 percent or \$1.6 billion in equalized value over 2015. This is the largest increase since 2007 and our second consecutive annual increase.

On a related note, the strong real estate market has resulted in an increase of more than \$1 million in realty transfer fees realized through the County Clerk's Office.

In closing I would like to thank the members of the Fiscal Committee, Freeholders Kowalski, Wright and Hudak, for their work along with our County Manager, our Department heads and our Finance Director Bibi Taylor and her staff.

Chairman Bergen, I thank you for your time.

The meeting is open to the public for the purposes of commenting on Resolution Number 2016-383 and 2016-384 only.

- 2016-383 FREEHOLDER ALEXANDER MIRABELLA:** Resolution determining that the 2016 Union County Budget shall be read by title and declaring that the public hearing conditions set forth pursuant to N.J.S.A.:40A: 4-8(1a)(1b) have been satisfied.

On a motion made by Freeholder Mirabella and seconded by Freeholder Carter, roll call showed 9 members voted in the affirmative.

- 2016-384 FREEHOLDER ALEXANDER MIRABELLA:** Resolution adopting the 2016 County of Union Budget.

Councilman Mike McTernan, City of Summit, applauded the county's continued investment to its infrastructure and their efforts in increasing the County's surplus. He stated that he will continue to advocate for budgets that are lower than the 2% level. He stated that he understood the County complies with the 1977 and 2011 Cap, but urged the Board to

adhere to the spirit of the laws by lowering the tax below the 2% levels. He made comments relative to income growth and county taxation over the past three years for City residents.

Councilwoman Sandra Lizza, City of Summit, stated that she served as the City's Finance Chair and spoke to the City's rigorous budget process. She stated that 50% of taxes go towards the school system, 21% towards the City and Library and 29% towards the County. She stated that the 2016 municipal increase is .84% and a school increase of 1.8%. She stated the concerns of summit residents regarding the continued increase of taxes over the years. She urged the Board to look into Public Private Partnerships and other cost savings initiatives.

Bruce Patterson, of Garwood, asked why the Scotch Plains Business Administrator oversaw the creation of the County Budget. He made comments relative to the \$55 million surplus and funds from the sale of Runnells Specialized Hospital. He suggested the County allocate 5% of the Budget towards the County's surplus, and utilize the balance to offset county taxes.

He made comments relative to the cost of the County's Health Benefits and debt service and the \$1.8 million cost of the County's "opt-out" clause. He commended the Board on the allocation towards the Animal Shelter. He made comments or inquires relative to various general appropriations. He urged the Board to vote against the Budget.

Director Taylor advised that, in regards to the interest due on the notes, the County issued bonds in 2015 in the amount of \$135 million that were previously authorized. She stated that the County tries to hold vacancies open for approximately 90 days in an attempt to build surplus, which those reserved amounts lapses after 2 subsequent budget years. She stated that the Director worked with Personnel to fill those vacancies.

On a motion made by Freeholder Mirabella and seconded by Freeholder Carter, roll call showed 9 members voted in the affirmative.

Freeholder Hudak excused himself from the meeting (7:28pm).

PUBLIC COMMENT PORTION

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

Bruce Patterson, of Garwood, made comments and/or inquires relative to a number resolutions. He made comments relative to a number of professional services contract resolutions and their political contributions over the years. He noted that Resolution No. 2016-401 does not have a dollar amount listed on the agenda. He urged the Board to pass a Pay to Play resolution. Relative to Resolution No. 2016-399, he inquired if the fees are coming out of the Open Space Trust Fund.

Relative to Resolution Number 2016-399, County Manager Faella stated that no Trust Fund dollars will be used.

Relative to Resolution No. 2016-401, Chairman Bergen stated the dollar amount of the original contract is not changing and that the only amendment is the scope of the work.

John Burry, of Kenilworth, questioned if the turf field will be a football or soccer field. He asked what is actually going to be designed for the park and what the time-line for completion.

Chairman Bergen advised that this resolution only awards the engineering, so the timeframe will be planned out in the coming weeks.

Director Zuber advised that a cart path currently exists on the property, but the amendment will allow for the design of a two-mile bike path around the park. He added that the design will call for a track and field (eight lane track), with all the amenities for a high jump and pole vault. He added that the field will be lined for soccer and lacrosse.

RESOLUTIONS

The following Resolutions are being offered for adoption:

2016-385 FREEHOLDER LINDA CARTER: Amending Resolution Number 2014-781, a contract awarded through advertised public bidding in accordance with the Local Public Contracts Law, NJS/A 40A:11-1 et seq., to Smith-Sondy Asphalt Construction Company of Wallington, New Jersey approving Change Order Number 1 (final) for the 2014 Road Resurfacing Project, Various Municipalities, County of Union, New Jersey. This change order will reduce the original contract amount by (\$476,661.77) for a new contract amount not to exceed \$2,629,650.64. (Union County Engineering Project Number 2013-022)

On a motion made by Freeholder Mirabella and seconded by Freeholder Kowalski, roll call showed 8 members voting in the affirmative.

2016-386 FREEHOLDER LINDA CARTER: Amending Resolution Number 2015-270, a contract awarded through advertised public bidding in accordance with the Local Public Contracts Law, NJS/A 40A: 11-1 et seq., to Foggia Trinity Electric, LLC, of Scotch Plains, New Jersey approving Change Order Number 1 (final) for the Intersection Improvements at North Broad Street and Central Avenue, Township of Hillside, County of Union, New Jersey. This change order will reduce the original contract amount by (\$60,830.44) for a new contract amount not to exceed \$189,062.04. (Union County Engineering Project Number 2012-006)

On a motion made by Freeholder Mirabella and seconded by Freeholder Kowalski, roll call showed 8 members voting in the affirmative.

2016-387 FREEHOLDER LINDA CARTER: Amending Resolution Number 2013-387, a Professional Service Contract awarded to Dewberry Engineers, of Bloomfield, New Jersey for the Replacement of East Hazelwood Avenue Bridge over the South Branch of the Rahway River, Ra69, City of Rahway, County of Union, New Jersey. This amendment will reduce the original scope and fee for this project in the amount of (\$324,054.00) for a new contract amount not to exceed \$255,696.00. (Union County Engineering Project Number 2015-018)

On a motion made by Freeholder Mirabella and seconded by Freeholder Kowalski, roll call showed 8 members voting in the affirmative.

2016-388 FREEHOLDER LINDA CARTER: Authorizing the County Manager to approve Change Order Number 1 to a contract awarded by Resolution No. 2014-735, through advertised public bidding in accordance with the Local Public Contracts Law, NJSA 40A:11-1 et seq., to DavEd Fire Systems, of Hackensack, NJ, to increase the total open-ended contract amount from \$314,560.00 to \$377,472.00 for the bid term of 10/8/14 through 10/7/16, Additionally, this amendment will reflect appropriations to Account numbers: 4/5/6-01-26-775-570-389 = \$277,472 and C-04-55-909-915-919 = \$100,000.

On a motion made by Freeholder Mirabella and seconded by Freeholder Kowalski, roll call showed 8 members voting in the affirmative.

2016-389 FREEHOLDER LINDA CARTER: Resolution concurring with the Township of Springfield regarding road closures for the Annual Memorial Day Parade Celebration held on Monday, May 30, 2016 between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 12:00 p.m., and further requesting permission to close Mountain Avenue from the intersection of Shunpike Road to North Trivett Avenue; Shunpike Road from the intersection of South Springfield Avenue to the intersection of Mountain Avenue.

On a motion made by Freeholder Mirabella and seconded by Freeholder Kowalski, roll call showed 8 members voting in the affirmative.

2016-390 FREEHOLDER LINDA CARTER: Resolution concurring with the Township of Berkeley Heights granting permission to the Mt. Carmel Society to close Springfield Avenue from the intersection of Snyder Avenue to the Berkeley Heights/Long Hill Township Bridge from 6:00 p.m. on Saturday, July 16, 2016 to 2:00 a.m. on Sunday, July 17, 2016 for the annual festival and fireworks display.

On a motion made by Freeholder Mirabella and seconded by Freeholder Kowalski, roll call showed 8 members voting in the affirmative.

2016-391 FREEHOLDER LINDA CARTER: Resolution granting permission to the Township of Scotch Plains to close Martine Avenue between West Broad Street and Cooper Road from 8:45 a.m. to 10:15 a.m. on May 15, 2016 for a Charity 5K race conducted by YMCA; and further granting permission to hang a banner on Park Avenue at the Bartle Avenue intersection from May 2, 2016 through May 16, 2016.

On a motion made by Freeholder Mirabella and seconded by Freeholder Kowalski, roll call showed 8 members voting in the affirmative.

2016-392 FREEHOLDER ANGEL G. ESTRADA: Authorizing the County Manager to enter into an agreement with CrossMatch, Palm Beach Gardens, Florida, for the purchase and maintenance of a finger print identification system, mandated through the State of New Jersey to allow background data sharing for all police agencies in an amount not to exceed \$26,545.85.

On a motion made by Freeholder Mirabella and seconded by Freeholder Kowalski, roll call showed 8 members voting in the affirmative.

- 2016-393 FREEHOLDER BETTE JANE KOWALSKI:** Authorizing the County Manager through the Office of Cultural and Heritage Affairs to apply for and execute all applications and agreements relating to a grant from the New Jersey Historical Commission in the amount \$85,450, with a county match of \$60,450, for a total grant amount not to exceed \$145,900.

On a motion made by Freeholder Mirabella and seconded by Freeholder Kowalski, roll call showed 8 members voting in the affirmative.

- 2016-394 FREEHOLDER BETTE JANE KOWALSKI:** Appointing the following members to the Union County Open Space, Recreation and Historic Preservation Public Advisory Committee: Charles Ekke and Michael Del Sordi (Public Members) for terms ending December 31, 2016; Rose Checchio (Elected Official) for a term ending December 31, 2016; Janice Siegel (Environmental Member) for a term ending December 31, 2017; Lisa Palin (Education Member) for a term ending December 31, 2017; and re-appointing Michael Yesenko (Historic Preservation) and Jim McManus (Labor Organization) for a term ending December 31, 2017.

On a motion made by Freeholder Mirabella and seconded by Freeholder Kowalski, roll call showed 8 members voting in the affirmative.

- 2016-395 FREEHOLDER ALEXANDER MIRABELLA:** Authorizing the County Manager to enter into a Sponsorship Agreement with Melly Mel Productions, Inc., Elizabeth, NJ to support the non-profit event entitled the Elizabeth Latin Waterfront Festival. This sponsorship celebrates Hispanic Heritage and is in the amount of \$5,000.00.

On a motion made by Freeholder Mirabella and seconded by Freeholder Kowalski, roll call showed 8 members voting in the affirmative.

- 2016-396 FREEHOLDER ALEXANDER MIRABELLA:** Authorizing the County Manager to enter into a Sponsorship Agreement with Union County Fatherhood Initiative/United Way of Greater Union County, to support the non-profit event to provide workshops and information to men relative to men's health issues, mental health and child welfare, in the amount of \$1,000.00.

On a motion made by Freeholder Mirabella and seconded by Freeholder Kowalski, roll call showed 8 members voting in the affirmative.

- 2016-397 VICE CHAIRMAN SERGIO GRANADOS:** Authorizing the County Manager to award a Professional Engineering Service Contract, through a Request for Proposal (RFP) process, to Maser Consulting PA, of Red Bank, New Jersey to provide professional design, construction administration and inspection services for the installation of an ADA accessible Fishing Dock on Cedar Brook Park Lake, City of Plainfield, New Jersey for an amount not to exceed \$59,900.00. (Union County Engineering Project Number 2015-033)

On a motion made by Freeholder Mirabella and seconded by Freeholder Kowalski, roll call showed 8 members voting in the affirmative.

- 2016-398 VICE CHAIRMAN 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 & Recreation: Winterberry Irrigation, LLC, of Southington CT, for the purpose of providing Galloping Hill Golf Course Irrigation Improvements, in an amount not to exceed \$541,835.00. (Union County Engineering Project Number 2016-014)

On a motion made by Freeholder Mirabella and seconded by Freeholder Kowalski, roll call showed 8 members voting in the affirmative.

- 2016-399 VICE CHAIRMAN 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 & Recreation: Paving Materials and Contracting, LLC, of Montville, New Jersey, for the purpose of providing 2016 Various Asphalt Overlay for Park Maintenance, in the amount not to exceed \$258,740.00. (Union County Engineering Project Number 2015-022)

On a motion made by Freeholder Mirabella and seconded by Freeholder Kowalski, roll call showed 8 members voting in the affirmative.

- 2016-400 VICE CHAIRMAN SERGIO GRANADOS:** Appointing Renee Banks as a Delegate member to the Union County Transportation Advisory Board to represent the City of Linden for a term expiring December 31, 2016.

On a motion made by Freeholder Mirabella and seconded by Freeholder Kowalski, roll call showed 8 members voting in the affirmative.

- 2016-401 VICE CHAIRMAN SERGIO GRANADOS:** Amending Resolution No. 2014-307, adopted on April 10, 2014 awarding the engineering, design, construction administration and inspection services to Neglia Engineering Associates for the Oak Ridge Park Improvement Project to include the design of a bicycle/walking path and a turf field.

On a motion made by Freeholder Mirabella and seconded by Freeholder Kowalski, roll call showed 6 members voting in the affirmative, with Freeholders Estrada and Jalloh voting in the negative.

- 2016-402 CHAIRMAN BRUCE H. BERGEN:** Authorizing the County Manager, through the Office of the Sheriff, to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with the Township of Berkeley Heights to participate in the Union County Law Enforcement Officer Loan Program.

On a motion made by Freeholder Mirabella and seconded by Freeholder Kowalski, roll call showed 8 members voting in the affirmative.

- 2016-403 CHAIRMAN BRUCE H. BERGEN:** Authorizing the County Manager to renew Union County Cooperative Pricing System, ID# 8UCCP, for another term of five years, making the new expiration date July 2021. This cooperative pricing system, with the approval of both the County and the vendor(s), allows approved municipal and other

governmental members to purchase utilizing a County of Union contract subject to its specifications, terms and conditions with no fees or cost to the County of Union.

On a motion made by Freeholder Mirabella and seconded by Freeholder Kowalski, roll call showed 8 members voting in the affirmative.

- 2016-404 CHAIRMAN BRUCE H. BERGEN:** Amending Resolution Number 2016-14, a professional services contract with Roth D' Aquanni, LLC, Springfield, New Jersey to be special counsel for Personnel matters, to increase the award for legal services in the amount of \$50,000, for a new total amount not to exceed \$125,000.

On a motion made by Freeholder Mirabella and seconded by Freeholder Kowalski, roll call showed 8 members voting in the affirmative.

- 2016-405 CHAIRMAN BRUCE H. BERGEN:** Amending Resolution Number 2016-13, which awarded a professional services contract to Bauch, Zucker, Hatfield, LLC, Springfield, New Jersey to be special counsel for Labor and Personnel matters, to increase the amount of award for legal services in the amount of \$100,000 for a new total amount not to exceed \$200,000.

On a motion made by Freeholder Mirabella and seconded by Freeholder Kowalski, roll call showed 8 members voting in the affirmative.

- 2016-406 CHAIRMAN BRUCE H. BERGEN:** Amending Resolution Number 2016-15, which awarded a professional services contract to Eric M. Bernstein & Associates, LLC, Warren, New Jersey to be special counsel for Labor and Personnel matters, to increase that contract for legal services in the amount of \$25,000 for a new total amount not to exceed \$50,000.

On a motion made by Freeholder Mirabella and seconded by Freeholder Kowalski, roll call showed 8 members voting in the affirmative.

- 2016-407 CHAIRMAN BRUCE H. BERGEN:** Amending Resolution 2014-207, a resolution awarding a contract to Palumbo, Renaud & DeAppolonio in the matter entitled Kolbeck v. UC, et als., to increase the appropriation in an amount not to exceed \$10,000.00 for a sum not to exceed \$69, 917.30.

On a motion made by Freeholder Mirabella and seconded by Freeholder Kowalski, roll call showed 8 members voting in the affirmative.

- 2016-408 CHAIRMAN BRUCE H. BERGEN & FREEHOLDER MOHAMED S. JALLOH:** Authorizing the County Manager to enter into a contract with The Shakespeare Theatre of New Jersey, Madison, New Jersey for the purposes of bringing up to six (6) live productions of Shakespeare's Twelfth Night to various outdoor venues throughout the summer of 2016, in an amount not to exceed \$4,000.00.

On a motion made by Freeholder Mirabella and seconded by Freeholder Kowalski, roll call showed 8 members voting in the affirmative.

FREEHOLDER SPONSORED RESOLUTIONS

- 2016-409 FREEHOLDER LINDA CARTER & VICE CHAIRMAN SERGIO GRANADOS:** Proclaiming the Month of May as Military Awareness Month throughout the County of Union.

On a motion made by Freeholder Mirabella and seconded by Freeholder Kowalski, roll call showed 8 members voting in the affirmative.

- 2016-410 FREEHOLDER ANGEL G. ESTRADA:** Congratulating and commending Andrew Esteves of Elizabeth for being accepted to Princeton University, a private Ivy League research university.

On a motion made by Freeholder Mirabella and seconded by Freeholder Kowalski, roll call showed 8 members voting in the affirmative.

- 2016-411 FREEHOLDER ANGEL G. ESTRADA:** Congratulating and commending Angelica Blanco on her upcoming graduation from the New Jersey Institute of Technology (NJIT) with a Bachelor of Science degree and a 3.78 Grade Point Average (GPA).

On a motion made by Freeholder Mirabella and seconded by Freeholder Kowalski, roll call showed 8 members voting in the affirmative.

- 2016-412 FREEHOLDER CHRISTOPHER HUDAK, FREEHOLDER MOHAMED S. JALLOH & THE ENTIRE BOARD:** Resolution offering this Board's deepest sympathies to the family of Oshiobugie Asekomhe, of Linden, during their time of sorrow.

On a motion made by Freeholder Mirabella and seconded by Freeholder Kowalski, roll call showed 8 members voting in the affirmative.

- 2016-413 FREEHOLDER MOHAMED S. JALLOH, VICE CHAIRMAN SERGIO GRANADOS & FREEHOLDER LINDA CARTER:** Resolution urging the State Legislature to approve Assembly Bill No. 1869 and Senate Bill No. 668, which establishes the Division of Minority and Women Business Development and State Chief Disparity Officer to monitor efforts to promote participation by minority-owned and women-owned businesses in State contracting.

On a motion made by Freeholder Mirabella and seconded by Freeholder Kowalski, roll call showed 8 members voting in the affirmative.

- 2016-414 FREEHOLDER MOHAMED S. JALLOH & FREEHOLDER VERNELL WRIGHT:** Laudatory resolution commemorating National Police Week 2016 at the Union Township Police Week Ceremony, and further honoring various township officers receiving Valor Awards.

On a motion made by Freeholder Mirabella and seconded by Freeholder Kowalski, roll call showed 8 members voting in the affirmative.

- 2016-415 FREEHOLDER MOHAMED S. JALLOH:** Laudatory resolution welcoming the distinguished Rev. Fr. Obimma Emmanuel as an honored dignitary and guest

speaker at the Daughters of The Holy Spirit International Women Fellowship's international convention.

On a motion made by Freeholder Mirabella and seconded by Freeholder Kowalski, roll call showed 8 members voting in the affirmative.

- 2016-416 FREEHOLDER BETTE JANE KOWALSKI & FREEHOLDER VERNELL WRIGHT:** Proclaiming the Month of May as National Community Action Month throughout the County of Union.

On a motion made by Freeholder Mirabella and seconded by Freeholder Kowalski, roll call showed 8 members voting in the affirmative.

- 2016-417 FREEHOLDER BETTE JANE KOWALSKI & FREEHOLDER CHRISTOPHER HUDAK:** Congratulating Maxim Mallick and William O'Connor of Cranford Boy Scout Troop 80, upon attaining the rank of Eagle Scout.

On a motion made by Freeholder Mirabella and seconded by Freeholder Kowalski, roll call showed 8 members voting in the affirmative.

- 2016-418 FREEHOLDER ALEXANDER MIRABELLA, FREEHOLDER CHRISTOPHER HUDAK & THE ENTIRE BOARD:** Congratulating the recipients of the Boy Scouts of America 2016 Union County Lifetime Achievement Awards.

On a motion made by Freeholder Mirabella and seconded by Freeholder Kowalski, roll call showed 8 members voting in the affirmative.

- 2016-419 FREEHOLDER ALEXANDER MIRABELLA:** Congratulating Reverend John J. Paladino, Vicar Forane (Dean), of St. Bartholomew the Apostle Church, as he celebrates the 25th Anniversary of his ordination.

On a motion made by Freeholder Mirabella and seconded by Freeholder Kowalski, roll call showed 8 members voting in the affirmative.

- 2016-420 FREEHOLDER VERNELL WRIGHT:** Proclaiming the month of May as Older American's Month throughout the County of Union.

On a motion made by Freeholder Mirabella and seconded by Freeholder Kowalski, roll call showed 8 members voting in the affirmative.

- 2016-421 CHAIRMAN BRUCE H. BERGEN & FREEHOLDER ALEXANDER MIRABELLA:** Congratulating the Board of Directors of the Union County Educational Services Foundation honorees at their 21st Annual Reception and Auction.

On a motion made by Freeholder Mirabella and seconded by Freeholder Kowalski, roll call showed 8 members voting in the affirmative.

- 2016-422 CHAIRMAN BRUCE H. BERGEN & THE ENTIRE BOARD:** Extending the Board's deepest sympathies to Sheriff's Officer Ryan Wilson and the Canine Unit upon the passing of K-9 Lorcan and thanking him for his service.

On a motion made by Freeholder Mirabella and seconded by Freeholder Kowalski, roll call showed 8 members voting in the affirmative.

- 2016-423 CHAIRMAN BRUCE H. BERGEN & THE ENTIRE BOARD:** Recognizing May 15, 2016 through May 21, 2016 as National Emergency Medical Services Week throughout Union County.

On a motion made by Freeholder Mirabella and seconded by Freeholder Kowalski, roll call showed 8 members voting in the affirmative.

- 2016-424 CHAIRMAN BRUCE H. BERGEN, FREEHOLDER ANGEL G. ESTRADA, VICE CHAIRMAN SERGIO GRANADOS, FREEHOLDER MOHAMED S. JALLOH, & THE ENTIRE BOARD:** Proclaiming the month of May as Haitian Heritage Month throughout the County of Union.

On a motion made by Freeholder Mirabella and seconded by Freeholder Kowalski, roll call showed 8 members voting in the affirmative.

- 2016-425 CHAIRMAN BRUCE H. BERGEN & THE ENTIRE BOARD:** Extending the Board's heartfelt sympathy to the family of Margaret P. Hennessy upon her passing and expressing gratitude for 33 years of service to Union County.

On a motion made by Freeholder Mirabella and seconded by Freeholder Kowalski, roll call showed 8 members voting in the affirmative.

PUBLIC COMMENT PORTION

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

Dave Tims, of Union, on behalf of Operation Rebound, thanked Chairman Bergen and Freeholder Jalloh for meeting with their organization, which assists disabled and wounded veterans. He spoke to the mission statement and the goals of the organization, as they try to get these veterans back to an active lifestyle. He said he looks forward to working with the Board in the future.

Chairman Bergen thanked Mr. Tims and stated that it was great to meet him and that he looked forward to working together in the future.

Bruce Patterson, of Garwood, made comments relative to the budget, suggesting that the County eliminate the matching requirement for many of the grants offered to the municipalities. He stated that Garwood will have to bond \$65,000 to come up with the matching funds. He made comments relative to financial accountability and critical thinking within the Administration. He stated his concerns with permanently extending the Open Space Trust Fund.

John Burry, of Kenilworth, made comments relative to the County's use of Trust Fund dollars to fund parks salaries and debt service (general budget). He inquired as to why two Freeholders voted against Resolution No. 2016-401.

FREEHOLDER REPORTS AND COMMENTS

Freeholder Jalloh made comments relative to how the Infrastructure Grants' match requirement relates to State unfunded mandates (previous speaker's comments), advising that the County does not have the option to not participate; re-asserting that comparing the two is truly "apples to oranges". He stated that the previous speaker is incorrect in his statement that the grant is forcing the towns to bond. He advised that the grants are to be utilized to compliment "shovel-in-the-ground" ready projects that municipalities have already planned and anticipated. He stated that the speaker has historically spoken against the concept of matching grants, and noted that it is a fair position to take, however he respectfully disagrees.

Freeholder Jalloh made comments relative to the tragic accident concerning carbon monoxide poisoning of a young student of his aunt. He offered preventative measures that residents can take to reduce the risk of carbon monoxide poisoning. He noted that his carbon monoxide detector had gone off after a recent grilling and thanked the Union Township Fire Department for its quick response. He urged all residents to check their detectors.

Freeholder Wright made comments relative to the 4th Annual Union County Women Means Business Summit held on May 25th at the Galloping Hill Clubhouse. She spoke on the goals of the summit and noted that the keynote speaker is Debra Vizzi, President & CEO of the Community FoodBank of New Jersey.

Freeholder Kowalski made comments relative to the Union County Teen Arts Showcase held at the Arts Center, noting that there were 16 acts from all around the County. While impressed with all the acts, she was most impressed by the performance of one of the piano soloists from the County's Magnet School, Robert Agansinski (spelling), who wrote and performed the piece himself. She noted Finley Lamothe (spelling), from Elizabeth performed a dance to rival Michael Jackson. She thanked all the teachers, Cultural and Heritage staff and volunteers.

Freeholder Kowalski made comments relative to a training program, through the County's Department of Human Services and recognized by the New Jersey State Board of Nursing, to become a Certified Home Health Nurse.

Freeholder Kowalski made comments relative to the upcoming Bio-Blitz event held on June 10, 2016 and June 11, 2016 at Kawami Park, Union and Black Brook Park, Kenilworth.

Freeholder Kowalski made comments relative to the Master Gardner's Garden Fair & Plant Sale at Trailside Nature and Science Center.

Freeholder Carter thanked the Summit Councilmembers for attending the night's meeting and appreciated their advocacy for their constituents. She assured the Councilmembers that the Board hears and understands their concerns.

Freeholder Carter made comments relative to May being Military Awareness, and thanked the active and retired military personnel for their service to the Country.

Freeholder Carter made comments relative to the annual Rhythm and Blues by the Brook concert held at Cedar Brook Park in Plainfield. She noted that the free concert will be headlined by Sister Sledge, whose hit song "We Are Family" became a hit song and worldwide anthem at the end of the 1970s.

Freeholder Estrada made comments relative to the TTF funding. He noted a reduction in funding of approximately \$4 million to \$4.8 million from previous years, further stating that last year urban areas received approximately \$4 million less, but that additional funds were made available to replenish the reduction.

Freeholder Estrada made comments relative to his meeting with Summit Councilman Rubino regarding the Summit Park Line project. He stated that he walked much of the area, and foresees an opportunity to connect Summit, through Bryant Park and Hidden Valley Park, with the township of Springfield. He noted previous studies of utilizing old railroad ways for passive walking parks. He noted how the Trust Fund could be of great benefit for the Summit Line project. He noted much discussion still needs to be had over the designs and overall costs of the project, noting that Councilman Rubino indicated much of the project can be privately funded.

Freeholder Estrada made comments as to how placing the referendum for the Open Space Trust Fund extension on this year's ballot would allow for the greatest participation by the public for either its support or defeat.

Freeholder Mirabella thanked the Councilmembers for their comments and stated that he hoped the County can continue its dialogue with the Summit council, noting former Councilmember Maddon's efforts in working with the Board.

Freeholder Mirabella made comments relative to a memorial service for Sheriff K-9 Larkin. He thanked Sheriff Cryan for his work with the K-9 unit.

Freeholder Mirabella made comments relative to the Union County Emergency Response Team (UCERT) SWAT demonstration at the Houdaille quarry. He spoke of the support of Prosecutor Park, Sheriff Cryan and the various participating Municipal Police Departments. He noted the demonstrations centered on Hostage Negotiations, Forced Entry, Sniper Capabilities and Medic Response. He commended the abilities of the highly trained officers in the UCERT and SWAT units.

Chairman Bergen stated that it is not the policy of the Board to debate with members of the public during these Freeholder Meetings. He noted that simply because the public comments are repeated, does not make said comments true.

Chairman Bergen made comments on the new "Falcon Cam" (displayed on the Meeting Room Monitors). He stated that the Peregrine Falcons have been nesting on the Courthouse for the past decade. He noted that the Falcons had been absent from New Jersey for some time. He stated that the Falcon Cam is a live feed and expects the chicks to hatch any day.

Chairman Bergen made comments relative to the County Clerk's updated version of the Union County Votes mobile application.

Chairman Bergen noted that the Board postponed the Agenda Meeting of May 19, 2016 to start at 7pm on May 26, 2016; which will be followed by the originally scheduled Regular Meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Bergen asked for a motion to return to the Regular Meeting. On a motion made by Freeholder Mirabella and seconded by Freeholder Carter roll call showed 8 members of the Board voted in the affirmative, with Freeholder Hudak not present. The meeting was adjourned at 8:12pm.

UNION COUNTY BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS 2016 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 3, 2016 at 12:00 pm
Assignment Judge Karen M. Cassidy's Courtroom, 2 Broad Street, Elizabeth, NJ

2016 MEETING SCHEDULE

<u>AGENDA SETTING SESSION</u>	<u>REGULAR MEETINGS</u>
January 14, 2016	January 21, 2016
February 4, 2016	February 11, 2016
February 18, 2016	February 18, 2016
March 3, 2016	March 10, 2016
March 17, 2016	March 31, 2016
April 7, 2016	April 14, 2016
April 21, 2016	April 28, 2016
May 5, 2016	May 12, 2016
May 27, 2016*	May 26, 2016
June 2, 2016	June 9, 2016
June 16, 2016	June 23, 2016
July 14, 2016	July 21, 2016
August 11, 2016	August 18, 2016
September 8, 2016	September 15, 2016
September 22, 2016	September 29, 2016
October 6, 2016	October 13, 2016
October 20, 2016	October 20, 2016
November 10, 2016	November 22, 2016 (Tuesday)
December 1, 2016	December 8, 2016
December 15, 2016	December 22, 2016

* As per Resolution Number 2016-372, the May 19, 2016 Agenda Setting Session was rescheduled to be held on May 26, 2016 at 7:00pm.

JEP


 James E. Pelletiere, RMC
 Clerk of the Board