



UNION COUNTY BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS

THURSDAY, MAY 17, 2012
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Alexander Mirabella called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
Angel G. Estrada	Freeholder	Present	
Christopher Hudak	Freeholder	Present	
Mohamed S. Jalloh	Freeholder	Present	
Bette Jane Kowalski	Freeholder	Present	
Deborah P. Scanlon	Freeholder	Present	
Daniel P. Sullivan	Freeholder	Late	6:33 PM
Vernell Wright	Freeholder	Present	
Linda Carter	Vice Chairman	Present	
Alexander Mirabella	Chairman	Present	

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

PRAYER AND SALUTE TO THE FLAG

The Prayer and Salute to the Flag were lead by the Clerk of the Board.

STATEMENT OF COMPLIANCE WITH THE OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT

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

PUBLIC COMMENT PORTION

(Freeholder Sullivan entered the meeting)

Chairman Mirabella thanked everyone for attending the Special Meeting to consider two items. He stated the following:

First, as you may have read in the paper or heard, while we were going through the process of seeking to privatize the dietary, housekeeping and laundry services at Runnells Specialized Hospital, it became clear the County should utilize competitive contracting to select a vendor.

The County's statement on this is as follows: We believe competitive contracting will increase the likelihood of a better outcome for everyone involved for some of the following reasons:

- Competitive Contracting provides greater flexibility to establish the terms, length and conditions of a contract

- Competitive contracting is not limited to price only, and allows for the consideration of other factors including experience and relevant service qualifications
- More competition increases the likelihood of a better outcome

As part of the competitive contract, the County will require the vendor to give current employees, in good standing, the first right of refusal for any employment opportunities that arise as a result of the contract. It should also be noted that employees and/or their representatives shall be permitted to respond to the competitive contract proposal.

If employees are represented by an organization that has negotiated a contract with the contracting unit (meaning the County), only the bargaining unit shall be authorized to submit such recommendations or proposals.

Finally, our decision to procure a vendor through this method will necessitate extending the employment of 101 Runnells employees in these areas who otherwise would have been impacted by a layoff on June 1st. Their new layoff date is August 31st.

Second, after months of work, we have identified a vendor to provide health and prescription benefit coverage for the County of Union.

As you may be aware, Cigna has been the County's carrier since July 1st, 2009. Cigna's initial renewal increase for our plan represented an approximate 18.41 percent increase year over year for an overall difference of \$10.4 million.

Through the hard work of our County Manager, Director of Administrative Services, Director of Finance, staff and our health insurance consultant, we went out into the marketplace and found a far better deal with Horizon Blue Cross Blue Shield of New Jersey.

The proposed resolution before us for consideration tonight only represents an increase of 2.94 percent, well below the current health care trend average of 10%. Of further note, It is also cheaper than the state health benefits plan by approximately 3 percent or \$2.2 million.

Therefore, we are considering this resolution to change carriers and award the health and prescription coverage to Horizon Blue Cross Blue Shield of New Jersey.

This meeting is open to the public for the purposes of commenting on resolutions being offered for adoption only.

There were no questions.

RESOLUTIONS

The following Resolutions are being offered for adoption:

2012-453 FREEHOLDER VERNELL WRIGHT: **Resolution authorizing the use of competitive contracting process, in accordance with NJ 40A: 11-4.1 et seq., for procuring a vendor to provide dietary, housekeeping and laundry services for Runnells Specialized Hospital.**
RESULT: ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]; MOVER: Christopher Hudak, Freeholder;
SECONDER: Linda Carter, Vice Chairman; **AYES:** Freeholder Estrada, Freeholder Hudak,

Freeholder Jalloh, Freeholder Kowalski, Freeholder Scanlon, Freeholder Sullivan, Freeholder Wright, Vice Chairman Carter, Chairman Mirabella;

2012-454 CHAIRMAN ALEXANDER MIRABELLA: **Authorizing the County Manager to award the County of Union's Health and Prescription Drug Plan to Horizon Blue Cross Blue Shield of New Jersey (Overall increase of 2.94% from last year) as follows: Health Insurance Plan from July 1, 2012 through June 30, 2013 in the amount of \$47,854,438.57 (An increase of 4.0% from last year); Prescription Plan from July 1, 2012 through June 30, 2013 in the amount of \$10,231,225.00 (A decrease of 4.02% from last year).**

RESULT: ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]; MOVER: Christopher Hudak, Freeholder; **SECONDER:** Linda Carter, Vice Chairman; **AYES:** Freeholder Estrada, Freeholder Hudak, Freeholder Jalloh, Freeholder Kowalski, Freeholder Scanlon, Freeholder Sullivan, Freeholder Wright, Vice Chairman Carter, Chairman Mirabella;

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:36 PM.

RESULT: ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]; MOVER: Christopher Hudak, Freeholder; **SECONDER:** Deborah P. Scanlon, Freeholder; **AYES:** Freeholder Estrada, Freeholder Hudak, Freeholder Jalloh, Freeholder Kowalski, Freeholder Scanlon, Freeholder Sullivan, Freeholder Wright, Vice Chairman Carter, Chairman Mirabella;

2012 UNION COUNTY BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS' 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 8, 2012 at 12:00pm
Assignment Judge Karen M. Cassidy's Courtroom, 2 Broad Street, Elizabeth, NJ

AGENDA SETTING MEETINGS

January 19, 2012

February 2, 2012
February 16, 2012

March 1, 2012
March 15, 2012

April 5, 2012
April 26, 2012

May 3, 2012
May 17, 2012

June 14, 2012
June 28, 2012

July 12, 2012

August 9, 2012

September 6, 2012
September 20, 2012

October 4, 2012
October 18, 2012

November 8, 2012
Tues., November 20, 2012

December 6, 2012
December 20, 2012

REGULAR MEETINGS

January 26, 2012

February 9, 2012
February 23, 2012

March 8, 2012
March 22, 2012

April 19, 2012
April 26, 2012

May 3, 2012
May 31, 2012

June 14, 2012
June 28, 2012

July 19, 2012


August 16, 2012

September 13, 2012
September 27, 2012

October 11, 2012
October 18, 2012

November 8, 2012
November 29, 2012

December 6, 2012
December 20, 2012


James E. Pellettiere
Clerk of the Board

JEP:mb