



UNION COUNTY BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 12, 2017
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING

Chairman Bruce H. Bergen presided and called the meeting to order at 7:12pm. Roll call showed Vice Chairman Sergio Granados, Freeholders Linda Carter, Mohamed S. Jalloh, Bette Jane Kowalski, Alexander Mirabella and Vernell Wright were present, with Angel G. Estrada and Christopher Hudak were absent.

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 were led by the Clerk of the Board.

Statement of Compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act was read by the Clerk of the Board.

APPROVAL OF COMMUNICATIONS

Note and File

Oath of Office: Commission on the Status of Women, Jennifer Blumenstock.

Chairman Bergen called for a motion to approve the Communications. On a motion made by Freeholder Mirabella and seconded by Freeholder Kowalski, roll call showed seven members of the Board voted in the affirmative with Freeholders Estrada and Hudak absent.

Freeholder Estrada entered the meeting at this point.

ORDINANCE FOR INTRODUCTION

The Clerk of the Board read the Title of the Ordinance.

788-2017 AN ORDINANCE FIXING THE SALARY OF THE DIRECTOR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES.

BE IT ORDAINED by the Board of Chosen Freeholders of the County of Union as follows:

Section 1. The salary of the Director of the Department of Human Services shall be as hereinafter set forth.

Section 2. That this Ordinance shall take effect at the time and manner provided by law.

Section 3. That the Clerk of this Board be and he is hereby authorized to publish a notice in the appropriate newspaper of such introduction and of a public

hearing on October 26, 2017, and shall forward one certified copy of final passage to each Clerk of all Municipalities located within the County of Union.

Position(s)	Salary	Effective
Director of Human Services	\$130,000.00	1-Nov.-2017

FIRST READING STATEMENT

Freeholder Alexander Mirabella, Fiscal Subcommittee Chairman, moved Ordinance Number 788-2017 for First Reading and authorized the Clerk of the Board to advertise same in accordance with the law. The Public Hearing and Final Reading will be held on October 26, 2017.

Chairman Bergen called for a motion to adopt Ordinance 788-2017. On a motion made by Freeholder Mirabella and seconded by Freeholder Carter eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative with Freeholder Hudak absent.

PUBLIC COMMENT PORTION

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

Bruce Paterson, Garwood, spoke in reference to the following resolutions:

Resolution 2017-825, he asked for a brief overview; he said that in reference to Resolution 2017-827 that Pay to Play should be in place and thanked the Board for being pro-active relative to Resolution 2017-840.

Mr. Paterson also inquired about Resolution 2017-848.

County Counsel Barry explained that in reference to Resolution 2017-848, there has been an insurance trust fund in place for many years and the purpose of this Resolution is to change the name to the Union County Insurance Fund Commission. He stated that there have been 3 commissioners that have served and continue to serve for a period of 2 years. He noted that they are required to be County officials. County Counsel Barry stated that the purpose of this Trust Fund is for claims that have been made against the County within their \$250,000 retainage and to expand to include workers compensation claims that has been previously handled separately from the Trust Fund.

Director Graziano responded regarding Resolution 2017-825. He stated that this has been an on-going groundwater remediation ground project that includes air sampling done through the LSRP. He said they remained with the site until the case is done, which is anticipated to be on May 7, 2019. They will continue to monitor the site until then, adding there is waste hazardous material underground from years ago.

John Bury, Kenilworth, asked who has been currently providing the services relative to Resolution 2017-844, and also asked if this is a new service. He asked for more detailed information pertaining to 2017-848.

County Counsel Barry explained Resolution 2017-848 further. He said that the three current Commissioners are Director of Finance Bibi Taylor, Deputy County Manager Amy Wagner and Deputy Director of Administrative Services Claudia Martins. He said the purpose of the Trust Fund is to address any, and all claims that come in under the general liability, employer and employee relationships, and all permitted by statute; and it will now be expanded to oversee the claims for the workman's compensations. The Commissioners will approve claims and settle as necessary and will serve as the insurance providers for matters within the County's retainage, which in most cases is within \$250,000. After that amount self- JIF kicks in.

Director Yuska stated Resolution 2017-844 is a continued service, and the name of the insurance broker is BGIA/Acrisure, LLC.

The following Resolutions are being offered for adoption:

Chairman Bergen called for a motion to adopt Resolutions 2017-825 through 2017-866.

2017-825 FREEHOLDER BETTE JANE KOWALSKI: Amending Resolution Number 2017-296, a Professional Engineering Service Contract with T&M Associates of Middletown, New Jersey to provide additional engineering services associated with the Groundwater Remediation and Monitoring at the Venneri Complex, Westfield, New Jersey in an amount not to exceed \$112,500.00 for a new contract amount not to exceed \$295,160.00. (Union County Engineering Project #2011-031)

On a motion was made by Freeholder Mirabella and seconded by Freeholder Hudak roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative with Freeholder Jalloh absent.

2017-826 FREEHOLDER BETTE JANE KOWALSKI: Amending Resolution Number 2016-800, a Professional Service Contract with LCA Engineering, LLC, of Union, New Jersey to provide additional engineering services associated with the Installation of an Emergency Generator at the Union County Police Academy Building in Scotch Plains, County of Union, New Jersey in an amount not to exceed \$12,965.00 for a new contract amount not to exceed \$91,085.00. (Union County Engineering Project Number 2013-015)

On a motion made by Freeholder Kowalski and seconded by Freeholder Mirabella, roll called showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative with Freeholder Hudak absent.

2017-827 FREEHOLDER BETTE JANE KOWALSKI: Amending Resolution Number 2017-70, a Professional On Call Environmental Engineering Service Contract with CME Associates of Parlin, New Jersey to provide additional services for the County of Union in an amount not to exceed \$20,000.00 for a new contract amount not to exceed \$40,000.00. (Union County Engineering Project Number 2016-047)

On a motion made by Freeholder Kowalski and seconded by Freeholder Mirabella, roll called showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative with Freeholder Hudak absent.

- 2017-828 FREEHOLDER BETTE JANE KOWALSKI:** 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 Engineering, Public Works & Facilities Management, Division of Engineering: Colonnelli Brothers, Inc., of Hackensack, New Jersey, for the Replacement of East Hazelwood Avenue Minor Bridge, Ra-69, City of Rahway, County of Union, New Jersey, in an amount not to exceed \$1,396,330.00. (BA#52-2017; Union County Engineering Project #2013-009)

On a motion made by Freeholder Kowalski and seconded by Freeholder Mirabella, roll called showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative with Freeholder Hudak absent.

- 2017-829 FREEHOLDER BETTE JANE KOWALSKI:** 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, Division of Engineering: Tony & Son, Inc., of Colonia, New Jersey, for the Superstructure Replacement of Hussa Street Bridge, Li-113, City of Linden, County of Union New Jersey, in an amount not to exceed \$589,265.00. This project is being funded by the NJDOT 2015 Local Bridge Future Needs Program. (BA#22-2017; Union County Engineering Project #2015-019)

On a motion made by Freeholder Kowalski and seconded by Freeholder Mirabella, roll called showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative with Freeholder Hudak absent.

- 2017-830 FREEHOLDER BETTE JANE KOWALSKI:** Authorizing the County Manager to award the proposed contract for the Department of Engineering, Public Works and Facilities: Division of Facilities Management with the Elizabeth Parking Authority, Elizabeth, New Jersey, for the purpose of providing Jury Parking, as per state mandate, for a contract period of twelve (12) consecutive months from January 1, 2018 through December 31, 2018 in an amount not to exceed \$240,000.00.

On a motion made by Freeholder Kowalski and seconded by Freeholder Mirabella, roll called showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative with Freeholder Hudak absent.

- 2017-831 FREEHOLDER BETTE JANE KOWALSKI:** Amending Resolution Number 2016-299, (BA# 7-2016) a contract awarded through advertised public bidding process in accordance with the Local Public Contracts Law, N.J.S.A. 40A:11-1 et seq., to Pravco, Inc., Rahway, New Jersey for Roofing Maintenance, Repair and Replacement Service, for Change Order #1 increasing contract in an amount not to exceed \$46,800 for a new total contract amount not to exceed \$280,800.

On a motion made by Freeholder Kowalski and seconded by Freeholder Mirabella, roll called showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative with Freeholder Hudak absent.

- 2017-832 FREEHOLDER BETTE JANE KOWALSKI:** Authorizing the County Manager to award the proposed contract extension originally obtained through advertised public bidding in accordance with the Local Public Contracts Law, NJSA 40A:11-1 et seq: Department of Engineering, Public Works & Facilities, Division of Facilities Management: Scientific Boiler Water Conditioning Co., Linden, New Jersey, for the purpose of providing Water Treatment Services & Supply Services, for twenty-four (24) consecutive months commencing October 28, 2017 through October 27, 2019, in an amount not to exceed \$32,000.

On a motion made by Freeholder Kowalski and seconded by Freeholder Mirabella, roll called showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative with Freeholder Hudak absent.

- 2017-833 FREEHOLDER BETTE JANE KOWALSKI:** Resolution concurring with the Borough of Roselle Park granting permission to hang a banner from October 1, 2017 to October 16, 2017 over Chestnut Street to advertise the Borough-wide garage sale to be held on Saturday October 14, 2017.

On a motion made by Freeholder Kowalski and seconded by Freeholder Mirabella, roll called showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative with Freeholder Hudak absent.

- 2017-834 FREEHOLDER BETTE JANE KOWALSKI:** Resolution concurring with the Township of Cranford to close Springfield Avenue between North Avenue and North Union Avenue on Sunday, October 15, 2017 from 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. for the Cranford Fire Department 125th Anniversary.

On a motion made by Freeholder Kowalski and seconded by Freeholder Mirabella, roll called showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative with Freeholder Hudak absent.

- 2017-835 FREEHOLDER BETTE JANE KOWALSKI:** Authorizing the County Manager to enter into a contract with Foley, Inc., Piscataway, New Jersey, for the purchase of a 2017 Caterpillar Model 930 M Wheel Loader for the Department of Engineering, Public Works & Facilities Management; Division of Public Works through the Educational Services Commission of NJ (MRESC 15/16-08) ID #65 MCESCCPS, in an amount not to exceed \$173,708.34.

On a motion made by Freeholder Kowalski and seconded by Freeholder Mirabella, roll called showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative with Freeholder Hudak absent.

- 2017-836 FREEHOLDER BETTE JANE KOWALSKI:** Authorizing the County Manager to enter into a 24 month contract with Safeguard Document Shredding, 800 Rike Drive, Millstone, NJ, for Document Destruction Services at the County of Union administrative offices. Services include provision of 96-gallon totes at designated county location, shredding truck(s), manpower, monthly or bi-monthly on-site

shredding of all documents and the recycling of materials collected. Contract will run October 15, 2017 - October 14, 2019 with one additional 24-month extension option. Price per 96 gallon tote is \$9.65. Annual contract not to exceed \$10,000.

On a motion made by Freeholder Kowalski and seconded by Freeholder Mirabella, roll called showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative with Freeholder Hudak absent.

- 2017-837 FREEHOLDER BETTE JANE KOWALSKI:** Authorizing the County Manager to apply for the 2016 NJDEP Recycling Enhancement Grant in the amount of \$415,628 to execute all necessary documents and adopt the proposed spending plan. The grant will partially fund positions, fund Household Hazardous Waste programs, Electronics, Shredding and other recycling programs as well as associated advertising and education costs.

On a motion made by Freeholder Kowalski and seconded by Freeholder Mirabella, roll called showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative with Freeholder Hudak absent.

- 2017-838 FREEHOLDER BETTE JANE KOWALSKI:** Authorizing the County Manager to enter into a lease agreement with The Gateway Family YMCA, Elizabeth Branch, to rent space for the 2018 Intoxicated Driver Resource Center (IDRC) education classes to be held at 1564 Irving Street, Rahway, New Jersey, at a rate of \$520 per day for a minimum of 52 scheduled days during the period of January 1, 2018 through December 31, 2018 in the total amount not to exceed \$27,040.

On a motion made by Freeholder Kowalski and seconded by Freeholder Mirabella, roll called showed seven members of the Board voted in the affirmative with Freeholder Hudak absent and Freeholder Bergen abstaining.

- 2017-839 FREEHOLDER ALEXANDER MIRABELLA:** Resolution Modifying the 2017 Union County Adopted Budget in the amount of \$62,000 for additional funds as a result of notification received from the State of New Jersey, Office on Homeland Security an Preparedness for a Program Entitled: "Urban Areas Security Initiative (UASI) Grant.

On a motion made by Freeholder Kowalski and seconded by Freeholder Mirabella, roll called showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative with Freeholder Hudak absent.

- 2017-840 FREEHOLDER ALEXANDER MIRABELLA:** Authorizes the County Manager to adjust and/or change the Internal Position Control Schedules.

On a motion made by Freeholder Kowalski and seconded by Freeholder Mirabella, roll called showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative with Freeholder Hudak absent.

- 2017-841 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 and Recreation: Country Feed and Grain of Haskell, NJ, for the purpose of

providing Horse Feed (BA 61-2017), for a period of 24 months in the amount not to exceed \$112,000.00.

On a motion made by Freeholder Kowalski and seconded by Freeholder Mirabella, roll called showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative with Freeholder Hudak absent.

- 2017-842 CHAIRMAN BRUCE H. BERGEN:** Authorizing the County Manager to apply for and accept funding from the State of New Jersey, Police Training Commission, for the 2017 Law Enforcement Officers Training and Equipment Grant, for the period of July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2018, in the amount of \$20,840.

On a motion made by Freeholder Kowalski and seconded by Freeholder Mirabella, roll called showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative with Freeholder Hudak absent.

- 2017-843 CHAIRMAN BRUCE H. BERGEN:** Authorizing the County Manager to award the proposed contract obtained through advertised public bidding for the Department of Human Services, Division on Aging Meals on Wheels program, to Hertrich Fleet Services, Milford, DE for the purpose of providing two (2) Ford Transit Connect Vans for a total amount of \$45,306.00.

On a motion made by Freeholder Kowalski and seconded by Freeholder Mirabella, roll called showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative with Freeholder Hudak absent.

- 2017-844 CHAIRMAN BRUCE H. BERGEN:** Authorizing the County Manager to award a contract to Medcom, Birmingham, AL to provide Retiree Benefit Billing Services and COBRA Administration Services from November 1, 2017 through October 31, 2018 for an amount not to exceed \$36,000.00 through the recommendation of our contracted insurance broker.

On a motion made by Freeholder Kowalski and seconded by Freeholder Mirabella, roll called showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative with Freeholder Hudak absent.

- 2017-845 CHAIRMAN BRUCE H. BERGEN:** Amending Resolution Number 2014-61 to appoint Claudia Martins as a HIPAA Privacy Officer to implement and oversee the HIPAA privacy policies and procedures for the County's health plans. Also, appointing Diego Otero as HIPAA Security Officer to oversee the HIPAA security policies and procedures for the County's health plans.

On a motion made by Freeholder Kowalski and seconded by Freeholder Mirabella, roll called showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative with Freeholder Hudak absent.

- 2017-846 CHAIRMAN BRUCE H. BERGEN:** Amending Resolution Number 2017-450, an open ended contract awarded through initial Bid Award 32-2017 to Maplecrest Auto Mall, Vauxhall, New Jersey to purchase one (1) additional 2018 Ford Explorer at \$36,621

and two (2) 2018 Ford Escapes in an amount not to exceed \$56,896 replacing outdated fleet vehicles.

On a motion made by Freeholder Kowalski and seconded by Freeholder Mirabella, roll called showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative with Freeholder Hudak absent.

- 2017-847 CHAIRMAN BRUCE H. BERGEN:** Authorizing the County Manager to enter into a lease agreement with Koam Investors Group, LLC c/o The Liz Group Corp. for rental space at 288 North Broad St. 2nd Floor, Elizabeth, NJ for We Are One NJ – Union County Program (formerly situated at The Mills at Jersey Gardens Mall in the Workforce Innovation Business Center), the lease amount includes all expenses including utilities for a period of five (5) years commencing on December 1, 2017 through November 30, 2022. The proposed rent for one year shall be at a rate of \$25/sq. ft. The Base Rent will increase 3% each subsequent year of the lease. The total rental fees over a 5 year lease agreement in an amount not to exceed \$265,456.79.

On a motion made by Freeholder Kowalski and seconded by Freeholder Mirabella, roll called showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative with Freeholder Hudak absent.

- 2017-848 CHAIRMAN BRUCE H. BERGEN:** Authorizing the establishment the Union County Insurance Fund Commission.

On a motion made by Freeholder Kowalski and seconded by Freeholder Mirabella, roll called showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative with Freeholder Hudak absent.

FREEHOLDER SPONSORED RESOLUTIONS

- 2017-849 FREEHOLDER LINDA CARTER, FREEHOLDER MOHAMED S. JALLOH & FREEHOLDER VERNELL WRIGHT:** Congratulating and supporting Two Ques Cafe of Union as they commemorate their first dinner theater of "Breakfast at the Layton's."

On a motion made by Freeholder Kowalski and seconded by Freeholder Mirabella, roll called showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative with Freeholder Hudak absent.

- 2017-850 FREEHOLDER LINDA CARTER:** Extending the Board's deepest condolences to the family of Bridget E. Tompkins upon her passing on Sunday, October 8, 2017.

On a motion made by Freeholder Kowalski and seconded by Freeholder Mirabella, roll called showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative with Freeholder Hudak absent.

- 2017-851 FREEHOLDER ANGEL G. ESTRADA:** Congratulating and wishing much success to Angie Ramirez, Farmers® Agent and Founder/CEO of Angie's Enterprises, Inc., upon the opening of a location in Roselle Park.

On a motion made by Freeholder Kowalski and seconded by Freeholder Mirabella, roll called showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative with Freeholder Hudak absent.

- 2017-852 FREEHOLDER ANGEL G. ESTRADA:** Congratulating Union County College-Cranford Security Guard Mark Willis upon his retirement, and further extending the Board's gratitude for his dedicated years of service.

On a motion made by Freeholder Kowalski and seconded by Freeholder Mirabella, roll called showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative with Freeholder Hudak absent.

- 2017-853 FREEHOLDER BETTE JANE KOWALSKI & FREEHOLDER CHRISTOPHER HUDAK:** Congratulating Trevor P. Martin of Boy Scout Troop 75 of Cranford upon attaining the rank of Eagle Scout.

On a motion made by Freeholder Kowalski and seconded by Freeholder Mirabella, roll called showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative with Freeholder Hudak absent.

- 2017-854 FREEHOLDER BETTE JANE KOWALSKI:** Extending the Board's deepest condolences to the family of Michael T. Moriarty upon his passing.

On a motion made by Freeholder Kowalski and seconded by Freeholder Mirabella, roll called showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative with Freeholder Hudak absent.

- 2017-855 FREEHOLDER ALEXANDER MIRABELLA:** Congratulating the Columbus Parade Association of Union County "500th" Inc'd. upon their 29th annual Christopher Columbus celebration honoring Columbus' 525th anniversary of his discovery of America.

On a motion made by Freeholder Kowalski and seconded by Freeholder Mirabella, roll called showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative with Freeholder Hudak absent.

- 2017-856 FREEHOLDER ALEXANDER MIRABELLA:** Congratulating UNICO District X and Plainfield's UNICO for developing and co-sponsoring Union County's Ninth Annual Columbus Day Flag Raising Event

On a motion made by Freeholder Kowalski and seconded by Freeholder Mirabella, roll called showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative with Freeholder Hudak absent.

- 2017-857 FREEHOLDER ALEXANDER MIRABELLA:** Congratulating the Union County College Foundation upon celebrating their 40th anniversary; and further congratulating Greg Flood as being selected as the 2017 Man of the Year and Professor Sherry Heidary for being honored with the 2017 Fiat Lux Award.

On a motion made by Freeholder Kowalski and seconded by Freeholder Mirabella, roll called showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative with Freeholder Hudak absent.

- 2017-858 FREEHOLDER ALEXANDER MIRABELLA:** Congratulating the recipients of the Richard J. Galante, Sr. Humanitarian Award selected by Unico National, Union Chapter, Union, New Jersey.

On a motion made by Freeholder Kowalski and seconded by Freeholder Mirabella, roll called showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative with Freeholder Hudak absent.

- 2017-859 CHAIRMAN BRUCE H. BERGEN & THE ENTIRE BOARD:** Congratulating the recipients of the Snyder Awards honored by The Snyder Academy of Elizabethtown & The Old First Historic Trust.

On a motion made by Freeholder Kowalski and seconded by Freeholder Mirabella, roll called showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative with Freeholder Hudak absent.

- 2017-860 CHAIRMAN BRUCE H. BERGEN & THE ENTIRE BOARD:** Extending the Board's appreciation to Dairy Queen of South Avenue, Plainfield, for their efforts in restoring and repairing bicycles for the bicycle and helmet giveaway on October 7, 2017; and further thanking Lieutenants Dante and Monica Cox of the Plainfield Salvation Army for their efforts.

On a motion made by Freeholder Kowalski and seconded by Freeholder Mirabella, roll called showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative with Freeholder Hudak absent.

- 2017-861 CHAIRMAN BRUCE H. BERGEN & THE ENTIRE BOARD:** Congratulating Freeholder Bette Jane Kowalski upon being the recipient of the Public Leadership Award and Kevin Casey upon being the recipient of the Ira Geller Award by Community Access Unlimited at their annual gala on November 2, 2017.

On a motion made by Freeholder Kowalski and seconded by Freeholder Mirabella, roll called showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative with Freeholder Hudak absent.

- 2017-862 CHAIRMAN BRUCE H. BERGEN & THE ENTIRE BOARD:** Proclaiming October 21, 2017 as Red Ribbon Day throughout the County of Union.

On a motion made by Freeholder Kowalski and seconded by Freeholder Mirabella, roll called showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative with Freeholder Hudak absent.

- 2017-863 FREEHOLDER ALEXANDER MIRABELLA:** Congratulating Union County College Men's Head Soccer Coach Alex Louis' 300th win over 21 seasons.

On a motion made by Freeholder Kowalski and seconded by Freeholder Mirabella, roll called showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative with Freeholder Hudak absent.

- 2017-864 CHAIRMAN BRUCE H. BERGEN & THE ENTIRE BOARD:** Extending the Board's deepest condolences to the family of Leo J. Spirito upon his passing on October 2, 2017.

On a motion made by Freeholder Kowalski and seconded by Freeholder Mirabella, roll called showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative with Freeholder Hudak absent.

- 2017-865 CHAIRMAN BRUCE H. BERGEN:** Proclaiming the Month of October as Pregnancy and Infant Loss Awareness month throughout the County of Union.

On a motion made by Freeholder Kowalski and seconded by Freeholder Mirabella, roll called showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative with Freeholder Hudak absent.

- 2017-866 CHAIRMAN BRUCE H. BERGEN & THE ENTIRE BOARD:** Congratulating the Rahway Branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People upon their 83rd Anniversary celebration on November 3, 2017.

On a motion made by Freeholder Kowalski and seconded by Freeholder Mirabella, roll called showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative with Freeholder Hudak absent.

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.

James M. Bennett, Summit, regarding the tax bill. He spoke about the ratio of the bill. He submitted his presentation to the board- see attached.

Bruce Paterson, Garwood, made comments regarding taxes throughout the County and applauded Mr. Bennett's "penny plan" to reduce County taxes. He said he has also made suggestions at prior Freeholder meetings. Mr. Paterson stated that he is opposed to the 15 % State required COA that is for affordable housing planned units, and the impact it will have to the areas. He stated it will increase the density and traffic to the areas and will also cause a negative impact on the infrastructure and the pilot programs. He believes the County should organize a group to study COA and to show the State how it will adversely affect our residents.

FREEHOLDER REPORTS AND COMMENTS

As a breast cancer survivor, Freeholder Wright expressed the importance of screening and early detection. She said October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month and increased awareness brings more education and action throughout the year. She said according to the American Cancer Society, woman's risk of dying of breast cancer has dropped 38% between the late 1980s and 2014, but there is much more that needs to be done, especially in terms of addressing the persistence of a significant racial gap in mortality. Black and white women get breast cancer at roughly the same rate, but African-American women have a 42 percent high death rate compared to whites. She reminded all women to be aware of risk factors like smoking, obesity, and alcohol consumption and to proactive self-examination on a regular basis and screening procedures that saves lives.

Freeholder Kowalski reminded the public that the County's Aging Services Kiosk program is continuing in October. The "ASK" program brings our professional staff to local libraries and other public places to provide seniors and their caregivers with information about services and resources in Union County. She provided the public with the contact information of the County's Division on Aging.

Freeholder Kowalski also stated that in November, the County will be launching a new handbook, which is designed to provide guidance on applying for assistance through the County's Division of Social Services. The handbook is a project of the nonprofit organization Community Coordinated Child Care and Union County Council for Young children in collaboration with Social Services. She said it lists documents and photos needed to complete the application process, working through the forms as quickly and efficiently as possible. She thanked the County staff for making this all possible.

Freeholder Kowalski reminded the public about Four Centuries-in-a-Weekend history event will take place on October 21st and 22nd. She also mentioned the NJ Historic Trust announced this week that those organizations and programs that received the NJ Historic Trust Preservation grants, and she was pleased to announce that the County's Deserted Village will be receiving a \$50,000 grant.

Freeholder Carter added that Four Centuries in a Weekend has a new feature this year, many of the sites will have an official cancellation stamp from the National Park Services recognizing Union County's inclusion in the crossroads of the American Revolution National heritage area and urged the public to go to the County's website to see about other events that are going on throughout the County.

Freeholder Mirabella made comments regarding the groundbreaking at Ash Brook Golf Course in Scotch Plains. He said the new building will have a full-service restaurant with capacity for 120 people, a full retail pro shop, administrative offices and public restroom and much more. He said these improvements will continue to solidify Union County's reputation as state leaders in this sport and the home of public golf. He said over the past 7 years, the County completely transformed what was once a money-losing golf operation into state of the art facilities that have become a profit center. He said the County's Galloping Hill Golf Course in Kenilworth has become one of the State's leading public golf courses and new Ash Brook will take its place beside it. The new facility is expected to open late fall of 2018.

Freeholder Mirabella thanked Director Zuber and Golf Operations Director Sanchez for their efforts.

Freeholder Mirabella also commented on Chairman Bergen's Union County Means Green community garden initiative. He said he visited Brunner School where the students gave him a tour of their new garden. He said the garden received funding as part of this initiative and it was impressive to see how engaged and knowledgeable the children are about healthy food and a healthy environment. Freeholder Mirabella stated that the garden serves the entire school as a platform for lessons in a range of academic subjects for all ages and as a means of connecting the students with the community at-large. He said along with Vice Chairman Granados' new "Kids Dig In" program, this is the second year that the Freeholder board has provided funds for community and school gardens. These grants are relatively small in size but they have a great impact on Union County residents.

Chairman Bergen also made comments regarding the Non-Profit Leadership Institute that will be launched with its first class of 24 recruits from local nonprofit organizations, adding that the program is a Freeholder initiative for 2017. The Leadership Institute is an effort to support skills and training for the next generation of non-profit executive leaders. He thanked Deputy Karen Dinsmore for her efforts in developing this concept and moving it along with Prevention LINCS. Chairman Bergen stated that if anyone wanted anymore information to contact Pamela Capaci of Prevention LINCS at 732-381-4100.

Chairman Bergen congratulated Freeholder Kowalski who is being honored by Community Access Unlimited for her commitment to non-profits and the community as a whole.

Chairman Bergen stated that he joined Vice Chairman Granados and Freeholders Wright, Kowalski, Mirabella and Estrada to officially dedicate the new veterans Center at the Union County College campus in Cranford earlier in the week. He thanked Union County College President Dr. Margaret McMenamin and board of Trustees Chairman Victor Richel for supporting this worthwhile program. He said as part of the UC HERO initiative, the Veterans Center helps students with a military background connect with resources that help foster academic success and ease the transition to civilian life. He said the Veterans Center provides a space in which veterans can share experiences, support each other and build s a community.

ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Bergan asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:35pm. On a motion made by Freeholder Mirabella and seconded by Freeholder Carter, roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative with Freeholder Hudak absent.

UNION COUNTY BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS 2017 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 7:00 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 8, 2017 AT 12:00 NOON ASSIGNMENT JUDGE KAREN M. CASSIDY'S COURTROOM, 2 BROAD STREET, ELIZABETH, NJ

AGENDA SETTING SESSIONS

January 19, 2017

February 2, 2017
February 23, 2017

March 2, 2017
March 16, 2017

April 6, 2017
April 20, 2017

May 4, 2017
May 25, 2017

June 1, 2017
June 15, 2017

July 13, 2017

August 10, 2017

September 7, 2017
September 28, 2017

October 5, 2017
October 19, 2017

November 9, 2017
(Tuesday)
November 30, 2017

December 14, 2017

REGULAR MEETINGS

January 26, 2017

February 9, 2017
February 23, 2017

March 9, 2017
March 23, 2017

April 13, 2017
April 27, 2017

May 18, 2017
May 25, 2017

June 8, 2017
June 22, 2017

July 20, 2017

August 17, 2017

September 14, 2017
September 28, 2017

October 12, 2017
October 26, 2017

November 21, 2017

December 7, 2017
December 21, 2017

JEP:mb


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

PRESENTATION TO BAORD OF FREEHOLDERS CONCERNING TAX BILL

James M. Bennett, Summit

Good evening members of the Board of Chosen Freeholders. I am appearing before you because I just received my tax bill.

Here is an enlarged copy.

Conventionally the ratio of school district, county and municipal taxes has been: half school, a quarter municipality, and a quarter county. This latest bill continues to show the school district at half, but now Summit's portion is about 20%, and the county portion is nearly 30%. Expressed differently, the county portion is nearly half again that of Summit. These proportions tell me that the Summit Board of School Estimate and Summit Common Council have done their jobs. This Board of Chosen Freeholders has not.

The result is that Union County is not merely expensive, which one can understand, Union County is unaffordable, which surpasses understanding. Do not think that because I have a Summit address that I am wealthy. I most certainly am not. Property taxes are my single largest expense and a genuine burden.

I am sure that there will be a justification for every line item of expenditure in the County Budget. And I am certain that many of you have at times worked to contain some of the

costs. However as a taxpayer, I have run out of patience. The inability of the county to achieve parity with the municipal tax burden is a failure in fiscal leadership. This is a scandal. This is a disgrace.

However I am not here merely to vent. I am here to propose a way back to regular order. Last time I was before you, I presented a suggestion of direct metering of property tax bills to tenants. This time I advocate a penny plan at the county level. For the fiscal year 2018-2019, the goal is not merely to contain an increase; the goal is to reduce, in real dollars, the county budget by 1%. To reach this goal, each county agency must submit a budget that is 2% lower than actuals for the previous fiscal year. Two percent provides a cushion to permit the overall budget to decline by 1%. Failure to submit such a budget by March of 2018 would result in an automatic cut to that agency's budget of 3%.

There can be carbon-style credits. An agency that is unable to cut its budget, say, because of state mandates, can trade with another agency that is able to cut its budget by greater than 2%.

The 1% overall reduction applies equally to debt and unfunded liability. Union County burnishes its credit rating. But the ability to borrow does not compel its exercise. Interest rates today are artificially low and will not continue. Long-

term debt amortization must be the goal. Any unfunded liability outside of debt must be amortized as well. An unfunded promise is government perfidy at its worst.

Real property cannot move out of the county, but taxpayers can. And when property values are inversely proportional to taxes, taxpayers do move, and the downward spiral starts.

The penny plan will require political courage and will. I call on the Board of Chosen Freeholders to demonstrate those attributes and embrace the penny plan.