



UNION COUNTY BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS

**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2018
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Sergio Granados presided over the meeting and called the meeting to order at 7:34pm.

ROLL CALL

Roll call showed Chairman Sergio Granados, Vice Chairman Bette Jane Kowalski, Freeholder Bruce H. Bergen, Freeholder Linda Carter, Freeholder Angel G. Estrada, Freeholder Angela Garretson, Freeholder Christopher Hudak, Freeholder Mohamed S. Jalloh and Freeholder Alexander Mirabella were present.

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

PRAYER AND SALUTE TO THE FLAG

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

STATEMENT OF COMPLIANCE WITH THE OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT

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

APPROVAL OF COMMUNICATIONS

Note and File

Oath of Office: Cultural & Heritage Advisory Board: Ruby Contreras; Open Space Trust Fund Public Advisory Board; Maria Carvalho, Jim McManus and Michael Yesenko; Union County Improvement Authority: David Barnett, Ronald Bornstad and Cherron Rountree; Union County Commission on the Status of Women: Judi Jenkins-Gaudino, Carol Ann Lombardo and Cherron Rountree; Union County Planning Board: John DelSordi; Union County Transportation Advisory Board: William Hoover; Union County Utilities Authority: Raymond J. Szpond.

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

Chairman Granados advised prior to opening the meeting up for public comment on Resolutions, he called upon County Manager Faella to offer some remarks on his 2018 Executive Budget.

County Manager Alfred Faella read aloud his letter introducing the Union County 2018 Executive Budget:

The 2018 Executive Budget is contained in this document for your review and approval in compliance with N.J.S.A. 40:41A-1 et Seq., the Optional County Charter Law.

This year's executive budget, and my final as County Manager, brings more good news for Union County, as our prudent financial practices and fiscal efficiencies, coupled with Union County's economic boom continue to pay off.

This rising tide of economic success was most dramatically witnessed in another major increase in our ratable base, this year by 3.26 percent or \$2.2 billion in new valuation over 2017. This is the largest amount since 2007, and our fourth annual increase.

The strong real estate market also resulted in the highest growth in 12 years from fees realized through the County Clerk's Office, which totaled \$44.29 million.

As I noted last year, and certainly worth mentioning again, the strong revenue surge and our financial practices have resulted in Union County achieving a Aaa bond rating from Moody's; the highest attainable. Moody's noted the County's "conservative budgeting" practices, in contrast to the State of New Jersey, which had witnessed a record number of downgrades (ten) under the previous Governor.

In another example of fiscal prudence, we were able to cut costs in the Corrections Department, reducing overtime by \$1 million through our continued focus on efficiencies at the jail. Over the past two years, we have now reduced overtime by a total of \$1.8 million, and reduced overtime hours over the same span by about 35,000 hours.

Another area cited by Moody's was the County's management of its debt. The County's net debt expressed as a percentage of the equalized valuation basis is .876 of equalized value; another reduction year over year, and far less than the maximum of 2 percent permitted by the state.

Overall, this year's Executive Budget is \$489 million. The Executive Budget meets the state cap, and would increase property taxes by 2.45 percent over last year, the lowest in nearly 20 years. This is being achieved while actually increasing the number of programs and services being provided by the County.

Following through on an initiative announced by Freeholder Chairman Sergio Granados, the Fiscal Efficiency Taskforce will work to find additional cost savings. The task force will be up and running as we continue to examine the budget prior to adoption, along with the work of the Freeholder's Fiscal Committee.

On the expenditure side, this year's Executive Budget continues to cover important services that contribute to Union County's outstanding quality of life:

- Funding the first full-year of operations at the new Family Court complex on Cherry Street, which required additional County staff.
- Providing a two percent increase for both Union County College and the Union County Vocational Technical Schools;
- Funding the construction of turf fields at Ponderosa Park in Scotch Plains; the construction of a new multi-purpose field at Wheeler Park in Linden, two others at Madison Avenue Park in Rahway; improvements at the loop playground in Mountainside, and funding for the new Golf clubhouse at the Ashbrook Golf Course in Scotch Plains.
- Funding the continuation of the Municipal Infrastructure grant program; the Kids Dig In! Garden grant program, and the Union County Means Green community gardens program.
- Adding \$500,000 in funds for the Level the Playing Field grant program---another example of a "first"---as Union County will become the first County in the state, and perhaps nation—to have every municipality create an inclusive playground.
- Funding the We Are One New Jersey Advocacy and Naturalization Center for immigrants at \$295,000,

While many of Chairman Granados' "Moving Union County Forward" initiatives are at little or no added expense, they are included in the budget.

This year, some of the highlights of these initiatives include:

- The state's first-ever Office of LGBTQ Services, and the state's first-ever Office for People with Special Needs.
- The Office of Community Engagement and Diversity, designed to spur volunteerism and charitable giving.
- The expansion of Sheriff Corvelli's Project LifeSaver program for seniors and those with disabilities;
- The County will also open a new Sensory-Friendly Trail at the Watchung Reservation in Mountainside—the County's first such facility.
- The continuation of UC HERO, which has helped so many Veterans. This year will bring new job fairs, and the exploration of ways to diminish the PTSD epidemic.
- As a whole, the County Freeholder Board will continue to expand on the successful job fairs and employment training it has sponsored for all residents through the Union County Workforce Development Board.
- Creation of the Union County Science, Technology, Engineering and Math grant program (known as UC STEM). Under this program, funding will be available for STEM-related enrichment in our elementary and middle schools.

- New state funded Union County recycling initiatives with programs that encourage recycling amongst our municipal partners and will provide recycling supplies for schools and seniors. The recycling programs will be funded through state recycling grants.
- The County will partner with Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in NJ, and offer a gun buyback program through the County Police, Prosecutor's Office, and Sheriff's Office.
- The County Police will partner with local police departments and Board of Educations to provide additional public safety services for our school districts.
- The expansion of prisoner re-entry programs that give a second chance for those who seek it.

I would like to thank the Freeholder Board, our team of directors, our Union County family and all our residents of Union County for their support through my years in working to make Union County one of the finest places to live, work and raise a family.

Chairman Granados thanked County Manager Faella, Deputy County Manager Wagner, Finance Director Taylor and her staff for all their hard work in establishing the Executive Budget and in making sure the County can have a productive year in providing services to residents, noting that a close consideration of county taxpayers is essential as well.

PUBLIC COMMENT PORTION

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

Chairman Granados opened the meeting for public comment on resolutions being offered for adoption.

Marc Lazarow, Garwood Councilman, made comments regarding Resolution 2018-190. He thanked the Board for the resolution and noted that Garwood will use the money as part of its efforts to revitalize Hartman Park to make the park much more inclusive for the residents.

Neil Weissman, of Manhattan, made comments in support of Resolution 2018-210. He thanked Freeholder Estrada for sponsoring the resolution. He said widening the pathways would provide additional capacity for 20,000 daily commuters. He also said the window for another rail tunnel is quickly closing. He said the closing of tunnels into the city would force thousands of cars onto roadways, pushing Manhattan into gridlock and backing up New Jersey traffic 25 miles.

Bruce Paterson, of Garwood, made comments or inquiries regarding a number of Resolutions. Relative to Resolution 2018-183, he asked for an explanation of what a non-fair professional service agreement was. Relative to Resolution 2018-189, he inquired as to

what assistance will be provided and how many programs were involved. Relative to Resolution 2018-190, he thanked the Board for the Resolution and asked if it was a matching grant. Relative to Resolution 2018-192, he asked if the entire employee receive the benefit provided to the 19 employees. Relative to Resolution 2018-199, he asked for clarification as to the amount paid by the employees is paying (approximately \$1 million) and how much the taxpayers are paying (approximately \$800,000). Relative to Resolution 2018-200, he requested a copy of the 2018 Temporary Budget. Relative to Resolution 2018-203, he questioned if the County was going to use sod or artificial turf. He asked where the sod was going to be installed. Relative to Resolution 2018-205, he asked if the agreement included a “lifetime health benefits” clause. Relative to Resolution 2018-218, he asked what the “Meals on Wheels” program did to receive the recognition, and asked how many meals they delivered during the month of March. Relative to Resolution 2018-221, he congratulated Kathy Villaggio on her retirement and commended her for her involvement in the Township of Garwood and for being a civic minded person.

Relative to Resolution 2018-183, County Counsel Barry advised that “non-fair and open” means that it (the award of the contract) was not subjected to a bid or request for proposals, noting that it is deemed a professional services based upon a non-fair and open process they have certain disclosures and representations that are required.

Relative to Resolution 2018-192, County Counsel Barry advised that employees that do participate in PERS are provided group life coverage.

Relative to Resolution 2018-189, County Manager Faella advised that the funds are used to run the summer and fall programs for young people to participate with the Union County Baseball Association.

Relative to Resolution 2018-203 Director Zuber advised the agreement is for two years for various projects at both golf course, noting that it will only be used if necessary.

Relative to Resolution 2018-205, Chairman Granados advised that there is no life time health benefits clause (within the agreement).

RESOLUTIONS

The following Resolutions are being offered for adoption:

2018-181 FREEHOLDER MOHAMED S. JALLOH: Authorizing the County Manager to enter into an agreement with Petro-Dragon for the purchase of hose couplings and adapters for the UASI Neptune System in an amount not to exceed \$29,232 utilizing 2015 Urban Area Security Grant Funding.

On a motion made by Freeholder Carter seconded by Vice Chairman Kowalski, roll call showed 9 members of the Board voting in the affirmative.

2018-182 FREEHOLDER MOHAMED S. JALLOH: Authorizing the County Manager to designate the certain public safety equipment as no longer needed for County purposes and authorizes the County Manager to dispose of the equipment in accordance with N.J.S.A. 40A:11-36.

On a motion made by Freeholder Carter seconded by Vice Chairman Kowalski, roll call showed 9 members of the Board voting in the affirmative.

- 2018-183 FREEHOLDER MOHAMED S. JALLOH:** Authorizing the County Manager to enter into a non-fair and open professional services contract, with Lehrer-Gibilsco Funeral Home, Inc., 275 West Milton Ave., Rahway, New Jersey, for the purpose of providing Livery Services through December 31, 2018, in a total amount not to exceed \$150,000.00.

On a motion made by Freeholder Carter seconded by Vice Chairman Kowalski, roll call showed 9 members of the Board voting in the affirmative.

- 2018-184 FREEHOLDER MOHAMED S. JALLOH:** Re-appointing Christopher Scaturro, as the Union County Emergency Management Coordinator for a three (3) year term commencing on March 1, 2018 through February 28, 2021.

On a motion made by Freeholder Carter seconded by Vice Chairman Kowalski, roll call showed 9 members of the Board voting in the affirmative.

- 2018-185 FREEHOLDER MOHAMED S. JALLOH:** Authorizing the County Manager to enter into a contract with Safe-T, 23 Hamburg Turnpike, Riverdale, NJ, through State Contract Nos. # 80958 T-number T0790-12-x-22281 and #80948 T-number Y079012-x-22281, for the purpose of providing Fire Fighter Protective Clothing and Equipment for the County of Union for the period of January 1, 2018 through December 31, 2018 in the amount not to exceed \$150,000.

On a motion made by Freeholder Carter seconded by Vice Chairman Kowalski, roll call showed 9 members of the Board voting in the affirmative.

- 2018-186 FREEHOLDER MOHAMED S. JALLOH:** Authorizing the County Manager to enter into an agreement with the County of Middlesex allowing the County of Union the use of the Middlesex Public Safety County Radio Network.

On a motion made by Freeholder Carter seconded by Vice Chairman Kowalski, roll call showed 9 members of the Board voting in the affirmative.

- 2018-187 FREEHOLDER MOHAMED S. JALLOH:** Re-appointing Catherine Flynn to the Air Traffic and Noise Advisory Board to represent the Township of Springfield for a two year term ending December 31, 2019.

On a motion made by Freeholder Carter seconded by Vice Chairman Kowalski, roll call showed 9 members of the Board voting in the affirmative.

- 2018-188 FREEHOLDER MOHAMED S. JALLOH:** Re-appointing Jeffrey Robinson as a Delegate member and Joseph Paszek as an alternate member to the Union County Air Traffic and Noise Advisory Board to represent the City of Rahway for a term beginning January 1, 2018 and ending December 31, 2019.

On a motion made by Freeholder Carter seconded by Vice Chairman Kowalski, roll call showed 9 members of the Board voting in the affirmative.

2018-189 FREEHOLDER ALEXANDER MIRABELLA: Authorizing the County Manager to award the sum of \$35,000.00 to the Union County Baseball Association for the purposes of providing assistance with the operation of the 2018 youth baseball programs. The funding is provided through and from the Kids Recreation Trust Fund in the amount of \$35,000.00.

On a motion made by Freeholder Carter seconded by Vice Chairman Kowalski, roll call showed 9 members of the Board voting in the affirmative.

2018-190 FREEHOLDER ALEXANDER MIRABELLA: Authorizing the County Manager to award Level the Playing Field 2017/2018 grants to all twenty-one (21) municipalities in the County of Union, in accordance with grant criteria. This grant funding allows for accessible elements to be added to playgrounds in every municipality in the County of Union, for a total not to exceed \$500,000.00.

On a motion made by Freeholder Carter seconded by Vice Chairman Kowalski, roll call showed 9 members of the Board voting in the affirmative.

2018-191 VICE CHAIRMAN BETTE JANE KOWALSKI: Authorizing the County Manager to award a contract to Mutual of America, Parsippany, New Jersey, in an amount not to exceed \$114,896.17 for the period of July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2018 to implement an employee 401(a) benefits plan for county employees not covered under the Public Employee Retirement System (PERS).

On a motion made by Freeholder Carter seconded by Vice Chairman Kowalski, roll call showed 9 members of the Board voting in the affirmative.

2018-192 VICE CHAIRMAN BETTE JANE KOWALSKI: Authorizing the County Manager to award a contract to Mutual of America, Parsippany, New Jersey, in an amount not to exceed \$20,424.00 for the period of July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2018 for the provision of Group Life Insurance with Group Accidental Death and Dismemberment Plan for employees not covered under the Public Employee Retirement System (PERS).

On a motion made by Freeholder Carter seconded by Vice Chairman Kowalski, roll call showed 9 members of the Board voting in the affirmative.

2018-193 VICE CHAIRMAN BETTE JANE KOWALSKI: Amending Resolution 2017-1043, adopting the 2018 Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) Spending Plan, to reflect a shift in funds under account numbers only; no change in amount of funds allocated; no change in total spending plan amount; no other changes to the terms of the 2018 CSBG Spending Plan.

On a motion made by Freeholder Carter seconded by Vice Chairman Kowalski, roll call showed 9 members of the Board voting in the affirmative.

2018-194 VICE CHAIRMAN BETTE JANE KOWALSKI: Approving a pre-qualified list of professional medical services for the patients of Cornerstone Behavioral Health Hospital of Union County for the period of April 1, 2018 through December 31, 2018.

On a motion made by Freeholder Carter seconded by Vice Chairman Kowalski, roll call showed 9 members of the Board voting in the affirmative.

- 2018-195 VICE CHAIRMAN BETTE JANE KOWALSKI:** Authorizing the County Manager to enter into an agreement with Language Line Services, Inc., Dallas, Texas in the amount not to exceed \$47,000 to provide translation services, on an as needed basis, for non-English speaking clients of the Department of Human Services' Division of Social Services and the Department of Public Safety for the period of January 1, 2018 through December 31, 2018.

On a motion made by Freeholder Carter seconded by Vice Chairman Kowalski, roll call showed 9 members of the Board voting in the affirmative.

- 2018-196 CHAIRMAN SERGIO GRANADOS:** Authorizing the County Manager, through the Union County Prosecutor's Office, to enter into an agreement with Life Technologies Corporation, Carlsbad, CA, for the purpose of providing chemicals and supplies for DNA testing for the period of January 1, 2018 through December 31, 2018 in an amount not to exceed \$30,290.16.

On a motion made by Freeholder Carter seconded by Vice Chairman Kowalski, roll call showed 9 members of the Board voting in the affirmative.

- 2018-197 CHAIRMAN SERGIO GRANADOS:** Authorizing a payment to Beckerman & Company, County General Insurance Agent of Record, to obtain the Equine Mortality Policy with Great American Assurance Company, Cincinnati, OH from February 24, 2018 through February 23, 2019 in an amount not to exceed \$1,952.00.

On a motion made by Freeholder Carter seconded by Vice Chairman Kowalski, roll call showed 9 members of the Board voting in the affirmative.

- 2018-198 CHAIRMAN SERGIO GRANADOS:** Amending Resolution Number 2017-1093 to reflect a name alteration only from ComPsych to FMLASource, a part of ComPsych Corporation, at the same address 455 N. Cityfront Plaza Drive, Chicago, IL.

On a motion made by Freeholder Carter seconded by Vice Chairman Kowalski, roll call showed 9 members of the Board voting in the affirmative.

- 2018-199 CHAIRMAN SERGIO GRANADOS:** Amending Resolution Number 2016-1021, a contract awarded to Delta Dental of New Jersey, Inc., to increase the amount by \$9,511 to a not to exceed figure of \$1,509,511.00 due to unforeseen increased usage in late 2017.

On a motion made by Freeholder Carter seconded by Vice Chairman Kowalski, roll call showed 9 members of the Board voting in the affirmative.

- 2018-200 CHAIRMAN SERGIO GRANADOS & FREEHOLDER BRUCE H. BERGEN:** Amending the 2018 Temporary Budget Ch. 96 P.L. 1951 (N.J.S.A. 40A:4-20).

On a motion made by Freeholder Carter seconded by Vice Chairman Kowalski, roll call showed 9 members of the Board voting in the affirmative.

2018-201 **CHAIRMAN SERGIO GRANADOS:** Amending Resolution 2018-106, 2018 Youth Services Commission Comprehensive Spending Plan, to adjust accounts and reallocate funds in the UC Division of Youth Services crisis intervention services contract with no change in total dollars as specified on the amended Spending Plan; no change in the total spending plan amount; no other changes to the terms of this spending plan.

On a motion made by Freeholder Carter seconded by Vice Chairman Kowalski, roll call showed 9 members of the Board voting in the affirmative.

2018-202 **CHAIRMAN SERGIO GRANADOS:** Authorizing the County Manager to enter into agreement, through the use of the Educational Services Commission Contract #MRESC 14/15-60 and 14/15-62 16-8, with Nickerson Corporation, of Bayshore, New York for the purchase and installation of the bleachers seating component parts for the rehabilitation of the bleachers at Warinanco Sports Center, in the amount not to exceed \$125,000.00.

On a motion made by Freeholder Carter seconded by Vice Chairman Kowalski, roll call showed 9 members of the Board voting in the affirmative.

2018-203 **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: Parks and Recreation, Division of Recreational Facilities; East Coast Sod and Seed, LLC of Pilesgrove, NJ, for the purpose of providing sod for the period of 24 months, in the amount of \$104,000.00.

On a motion made by Freeholder Carter seconded by Vice Chairman Kowalski, roll call showed 9 members of the Board voting in the affirmative.

2018-204 **CHAIRMAN SERGIO GRANADOS:** Amending Resolution 2018-122 dated January 25, 2018 to increase the appropriation to LexisNexis for the purchase of such law books and materials as is necessary for various departments, constitutional officers and agencies within the County of Union in an additional amount not to exceed \$756.00 for a total sum not to exceed \$59,276.00.

On a motion made by Freeholder Carter seconded by Vice Chairman Kowalski, roll call showed 9 members of the Board voting in the affirmative.

2018-205 **CHAIRMAN SERGIO GRANADOS:** Authorizing the County Manager to sign any and all documents necessary to enter into a Collective Bargaining Agreement with Teamsters Local 469--Secondary Supervisors, effective January 1, 2016 through December 31, 2019.

On a motion made by Freeholder Carter seconded by Vice Chairman Kowalski, roll call showed 9 members of the Board voting in the affirmative.

2018-206 **CHAIRMAN SERGIO GRANADOS:** Authorizing the County Manager to enter into an agreement with All Covered, a Division of Konica Minolta Business Solutions, USA, Cherry Hill, NJ, as the need exists to provide technical support for the networks,

servers, and computer systems throughout the County of Union in an amount not to exceed \$281,580, for the period of January 1, 2018 through December 31, 2018.

On a motion made by Freeholder Carter seconded by Vice Chairman Kowalski, roll call showed 9 members of the Board voting in the affirmative.

- 2018-207 CHAIRMAN SERGIO GRANADOS:** Authorizing the County Manager to award a contract through RCCP 1-2018 for the administration of Youth Mentoring Programs with Big Brothers Big Sisters of Essex, Hudson, & Union Counties, 500 Broad Street, 2nd Floor, Newark, NJ 07102, for the program service of one to one youth mentoring, program year 2018, in an amount not to exceed \$100,000.

On a motion made by Freeholder Carter seconded by Vice Chairman Kowalski, roll call showed 9 members of the Board voting in the affirmative.

FREEHOLDER SPONSORED RESOLUTIONS

- 2018-208 FREEHOLDER BRUCE H. BERGEN, CHAIRMAN SERGIO GRANADOS:** Proclaiming the month of February as Jewish Disability Awareness and Inclusion Month throughout the County of Union.

On a motion made by Freeholder Carter seconded by Vice Chairman Kowalski, roll call showed 9 members of the Board voting in the affirmative.

- 2018-209 FREEHOLDER LINDA CARTER:** Congratulating Pastor Paul Dean in honor of his 20th church and Pastoral anniversary.

On a motion made by Freeholder Carter seconded by Vice Chairman Kowalski, roll call showed 9 members of the Board voting in the affirmative.

- 2018-210 FREEHOLDER ANGEL G. ESTRADA:** Resolution supporting Complete George and the New York City Council efforts in urging the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey to widen the George Washington Bridge's sidewalks.

On a motion made by Freeholder Carter seconded by Vice Chairman Kowalski, roll call showed 9 members of the Board voting in the affirmative.

- 2018-211 FREEHOLDER CHRISTOPHER HUDAK:** Extending the Board's deepest condolences to the family of Franklin A. Ferguson upon his passing.

On a motion made by Freeholder Carter seconded by Vice Chairman Kowalski, roll call showed 9 members of the Board voting in the affirmative.

- 2018-212 FREEHOLDER MOHAMED S. JALLOH:** Congratulating the honorees of the Hillside Black History Month event to be held on February 25th.

On a motion made by Freeholder Carter seconded by Vice Chairman Kowalski, roll call showed 9 members of the Board voting in the affirmative.

2018-213 FREEHOLDER ALEXANDER MIRABELLA: Congratulating Chief Len Spina upon his retirement from the Garwood Fire Department.

On a motion made by Freeholder Carter seconded by Vice Chairman Kowalski, roll call showed 9 members of the Board voting in the affirmative.

2018-214 FREEHOLDER ALEXANDER MIRABELLA: Congratulating Bernie Lenihan upon retiring from Union County College as the Vice President for Financial Affairs and Treasurer for Union County College.

On a motion made by Freeholder Carter seconded by Vice Chairman Kowalski, roll call showed 9 members of the Board voting in the affirmative.

2018-215 VICE CHAIRMAN BETTE JANE KOWALSKI: Congratulating County Clerk Joanne H. Rajoppi upon being the recipient of the NSDAR Women in History Award from the Cranford Daughters of the American Revolution.

On a motion made by Freeholder Carter seconded by Vice Chairman Kowalski, roll call showed 9 members of the Board voting in the affirmative.

2018-216 VICE CHAIRMAN BETTE JANE KOWALSKI: Congratulating Marc Brown of Cranford on being named to Superior Court in Elizabeth.

On a motion made by Freeholder Carter seconded by Vice Chairman Kowalski, roll call showed 9 members of the Board voting in the affirmative.

2018-217 CHAIRMAN SERGIO GRANADOS: Recognizing the month of March as Youth Art Month throughout the County of Union.

On a motion made by Freeholder Carter seconded by Vice Chairman Kowalski, roll call showed 9 members of the Board voting in the affirmative.

2018-218 CHAIRMAN SERGIO GRANADOS: Recognizing and appreciating SAGE Eldercare for delivering Meals on Wheels in March to the residents of Union County.

On a motion made by Freeholder Carter seconded by Vice Chairman Kowalski, roll call showed 9 members of the Board voting in the affirmative.

2018-219 CHAIRMAN SERGIO GRANADOS & FREEHOLDER BRUCE H. BERGEN AND FREEHOLDER ALEXANDER MIRABELLA: Congratulating the JCC of Central New Jersey upon its largest Community Fundraising Day, The Big Give on March 11, 2018.

On a motion made by Freeholder Carter seconded by Vice Chairman Kowalski, roll call showed 9 members of the Board voting in the affirmative.

2018-220 CHAIRMAN SERGIO GRANADOS & THE ENTIRE BOARD: Congratulating the following Union County St. Patrick's Day Parade Committee 2018 honorees: John McParlan, Grand Marshal; Pamela Joyce-Adjutant; Kathleen Holmes-General Chairwoman.

On a motion made by Freeholder Carter seconded by Vice Chairman Kowalski, roll call showed 9 members of the Board voting in the affirmative.

2018-221 CHAIRMAN SERGIO GRANADOS & THE ENTIRE BOARD: Congratulating Kathy Villaggio on her retirement after 40+ years of service to Union County residents.

On a motion made by Freeholder Carter seconded by Vice Chairman Kowalski, roll call showed 9 members of the Board voting in the affirmative.

2018-222 CHAIRMAN SERGIO GRANADOS & THE ENTIRE BOARD: Congratulating Al Faella on his retirement after his many years of public service in City, County and State government; with over 16 years of dedicated service to County residents.

On a motion made by Freeholder Carter seconded by Vice Chairman Kowalski, roll call showed 9 members of the Board voting in the affirmative.

Chairman Granados advised that prior to opening the meeting up for public comment on any matter; he noted that there are two special presentations to make relative to the retirement of two individuals who have played an integral part in our County Government over the years.

Chairman Granados asked his colleagues to join him in a special presentation to Kathy Villaggio on her retirement after 40 + years of services who have played an integral role in County Government over the years.

Freeholder Estrada stated that he has known Kathy Villaggio for many years. He stated that the Board would often have questions about a project done 20 years ago, and would ask Kathy because they knew she would have the answers. He stated that she deserves to have time with her family and he's definitely going to miss her. Freeholder Estrada read the Resolution aloud.

Vice Chairman Kowalski thanked Kathy Villaggio for her many years of service. She stated that Kathy grew up in her hometown of Cranford, where her (Kathy's) mother still resides. She not only thanked Kathy for her service, but her entire family, noting her late father as well served the County. She made comments relative to the fact that Kathy's concerns were always with the County, and she was always thinking of ways in which she could help the County succeed.

Freeholder Mirabella thanked Kathy for her service to the County, noting that when he and Freeholder Estrada joined the Board, she was only half done with her service to the County. He noted that if there was anything (the County) needed done, Kathy would stop what she was doing and be part of the solution. He wished her the best, and wished her well in her time playing golf.

Freeholder Jalloh stated that all members (aside from the newest Freeholder, Freeholder Garretson) has had an opportunity to be Chairman, and noted that when Chairman, it is important to know one can pick up the phone and get the answer. He said that Kathy was one of those people the Board could rely on as someone with the institutional knowledge. He stated that he also had the pleasure of golfing with Kathy (or more appropriately watch her golf), and noted that he has been practicing and was ready to play up to her level.

Freeholder Hudak commented on the difference between Kathy's and his own golf swing. He stated that if there was ever a problem, and the Board had a specific goal to achieve, Kathy was someone that always had an idea as to how to achieve said goal. He stated that the Board was going to miss her.

Freeholder Bergen stated that he has known Kathy for a very long time outside of the county government, but noted as Freeholder he was able to see firsthand the great work she provides to the County. He thanked her for her services and stated he will miss her, adding that he looked forward to seeing her on the golf course.

Freeholder Carter echoed all the Freeholder remarks. She thanked her services (especially when she served as Chairman of the Board), and stated that she always appreciated her institutional knowledge that helped the Board make sound decisions for the residents of the County. She requested that she (Kathy) keep the Board apprised which golf course she is playing so they can enjoy playing golf with her and seek council about any current topics the Board may be facing.

Chairman Granados thanked Kathy Villaggio for her 40 years of dedicated services and for her friendship and guidance and dedication to union county residents.

County Manager Faella stated the Board's remarks summed it up really well. He thanked Kathy Villaggio for her services and knowledge, noting it isn't easy finding someone who not only can provide answers, but find someone who cares as much as Kathy does. He noted that he is retiring as well, and said that he looks forward to seeing her down in Florida.

The Board presented her with a resolution and joined her in a group picture.

Chairman Granados asked his colleagues to join him in presenting the second special presentation to Union County Manger Alfred Faella on his retirement after many years of public service in City, County and State government; with over 16 years of dedicated service to the residents.

Chairman Granados said that Al is someone who led the County and the Freeholder Board through his heart; and that it was clearly evident how much he cared about people and cared about the residents of Union County. He stated that he looked up to him as a leader, and noted that he embodied loyalty, dedication and leadership.

Freeholder Hudak stated that County Manager Faella is the only County Manager he, along with most of the other Board members, with the exception of Freeholders Mirabella, Estrada and Kowalski) has worked with. He noted that working with the nine Freeholders, each with different priorities, is a challenging job. He stated that the best way to describe Al, is with the single, but all important, word: "heart," noting that Al has lead the County with his heart and with the best intentions for the County's residents. He wished him well on his retirement and noted he will enjoy the spring training games (in Florida).

Freeholder Jalloh stated that he does not envy the job of County Manager and noted that Al handled the job of managing nine opinions (of Freeholders) with grace. He shared a personal story embodying the kindness and greatness of Al Faella. He stated that a young woman sent Freeholder Jalloh an email thanking him for helping her with her education. He spoke to the achievements of the young woman. Freeholder Jalloh went on to describe that

the young woman's mother previously attended a Freeholder Meeting to speak to the Freeholder Jalloh about how her daughter's high school was withholding her transcripts because of her account was in the arrears, and that they needed money to pay off the balance. Freeholder Jalloh, knew there was nothing the Freeholder Board could do to help with the payment, but Al Faella asked how much was owed. The mother advised they needed \$2,000, and without missing a beat, County Manager Al Faella said he would pay \$1,000. Freeholder Jalloh said that he would match that amount. Freeholder Jalloh said that story is a testament to Al leading by example and leading with his heart.

Vice Chairman Kowalski thanked County Manager Faella and stated it was a privilege to serve with him. She stated that whenever there's a crisis, she knew that Al was at the Emergency Management headquarters serving as County Manager "24/7;" noting that he put his heart and soul into the job. She thanked him for his friendship and wished him well in his retirement.

Freeholder Mirabella stated that County Manager Faella is a man who lives behind the scenes and in the background. He said he has led the County quietly and with dignity. He and have worked hard these last six years as County Manager, and for many years before as a Director, noting his dedicated service with the City of Elizabeth. His (jokingly) stated wife will be happy to see you a little bit more.

Freeholder Bergen stated his time as Chairman of the Freeholder Board would not have been as productive without Al serving as County Manager. He noted how Al was always agreeable to consider many solutions, but always was a part in finding the right solution. He spoke to Al's life of public service. He wished him well on his retirement.

Freeholder Carter echoed the Freeholder's comments. She stated that he lead the County, not only with intellect, but with heart. She said that all decisions and recommendations he offered were made with what he truly felt was best for Union County residents.

Freeholder Garretson stated that while she is the newest Freeholder on the Board, his leadership and what he meant to the County was evident through her colleagues' comments. She thanked Al for his guidance during her first few weeks as Freeholder, and thanked him for the candid conversations he offered to her.

Freeholder Estrada stated that he has known County Manager Faella for over 25 years, noting that they worked together at the Motor Vehicle Agency. He stated that Al filled the role as County Manager very well. He spoke to his character and that he has persevered through many life's challenges. He stated that he has a great deal of respect for Al, as he is an individual who constantly builds on possibilities. He congratulated him on his well-deserved retirement.

Freeholder Mirabella presented a Resolution to County Manger Faella read it aloud.

The Board presented County Manager Faella with a gift (an autographed baseball signed by Goose Gossage inscribed: "Best Wishes to a Great Yankee Fan and a Happy Retirement. – Goose Gossage, Hall Of Fame").

County Manager Faella joined the Board for a group picture.

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.

Chairman Granados opened the meeting for public comment on any matter. Chairman Granados advised that copies of the Executive Budget will be made available at the conclusion of the meeting.

Bruce Paterson, of Garwood, congratulated County Manger Faella on his retirement and thanked County Manager Faella for being (our) County Manager.

Mr. Paterson made comments regarding the Union County budget, stated that the County should have a zero % increase, and noting that a 2.45% increase (as proposed in the Executive Budget) represents approximately a \$7 million increase. Mr. Paterson made comments relative to the Garwood finance committee and suggested the County build a countywide archival facility for all the municipalities to participate in as a shared service (as in Passaic and Bergen Counties). He made comments relative to State co-mandates to infrastructure, traffic, and natural resources.

FREEHOLDER REPORTS AND COMMENTS

Freeholder Mirabella made comments relative to the 2018 Family PRIDE CommUNITY Picnic sScheduled for Saturday, June 16 at Rahway River Park, advising that admission is free to the inclusive celebration of family, equality, diversity and community. He advised that the Family PRIDE CommUNITY Picnic provides an opportunity for our community to stand in unity to celebrate diversity.

Freeholder Garretson wished everyone a Happy Valentine Day. She noted that she was proud of the numerous Black History Month celebrations held throughout the County, noting she was able to attend a number of them.

Freeholder Garretson made comments relative to the County's wellness program for women known as "International Women's Day – The Time is Now" on March 9th at the Maskers Barn in the historic Deserted Village of Feltville. She advised that the event expands Union County's recreational and educational offerings and ensures that every resident has the opportunity to participate in events that encourage healthy living.

Freeholder Bergen thanked the County Manager on presenting his 2018 executive budget the lowest in 20 years. He advised the public of the Fiscal Subcommittee's mobile budget meetings, noting the following schedule as follows: March 6th at the Voc. Tech School, March 13th Galloping Hill Golf Course, and March 15th at the Union County Administration Building. He noted that there will not be any public comments or questions during these meetings, but the public would be able to do so at the official public hearing.

Freeholder Bergen made comments relative to the school tragedy in Florida, and read from an article in Time Magazine. He stated that these weapon needs to be taken out of the hands of (our) citizens.

Freeholder Bergen made comments in reference to the Union County Means Green Community Garden Grants program, noting that they are now accepting applications for grants to start a community garden, or to expand or improve an existing community garden. He advised that as part of Chairman Granados's 2018 Union County Plant a Seed grant initiative, the Union County Means Green Community Garden Grants program seeks to provide more County residents the opportunity to experience the benefits of growing fresh produce in their neighborhoods.

Freeholder Carter echoed Freeholder Bergen comments regarding the national guns crisis and extended her condolences to the families in Florida.

Freeholder Carter made comments relative the County's sponsorship of the Black History presentation of Porgy and Bess at the Union County Performing Arts Center. She stated she was thrilled to present Kim Nesbitt with the Chester Holmes Humanitarian Award, and thanked all who worked to make this event a success.

Freeholder Carter made comments relative to two special events relative to upcoming Black History Month celebrations: on Friday, February 16th at the Trailside Nature and Science Center, the County's Office of Cultural and Heritage Affairs History Programs Coordinator will trace the history of African-Americans going back to the Revolutionary War, in recognition and celebration of African American contributions to and from the Union County community; and on Wednesday, February 21, at 12:30 p.m. in the Student Development Building at Union County College in Cranford for a screening of Men of Bronze, a rare 1977 documentary about the African-American soldiers of the 369th Regiment in World War I. She noted that Dr. Jeffrey Sammons, Professor of History at New York University, will be the keynote speaker for the event.

Freeholder Estrada made comments relative to the shooting in Florida. He questioned how many times this must happen before the nation takes action, and called for common sense gun legislation.

Freeholder Estrada thanked Councilman Marc Lazarow for his participation in the meeting and for offering his comments regarding the playgrounds. He wished Kathy Villaggio and County Manager Faella all the best on their retirement.

County Counsel Barry made comments relative his witnessing first hand on a daily basis County Manager Faella's dedication and compassion to the County and its resident, especially the residents in most need. He stated that Al Faella lead by example and motivated and inspired others to do the same. He wished him a happy and healthy retirement.

County Manager Faella thanked all Freeholders for their kind and gracious words. He stated that every member of the Board, and those previously on the Board, cares about the residents of Union County. He stated that it is because of their leadership, that he was encouraged to serve in the capacity as County Manager. He thanked the Board for their respect and encouragement, especially when he had made mistakes. He thanked the Board for the gift. He thanked his staff, the Department Heads, and the 2,700 employees of the County for their work they do each and every day, noting that the employees care about the residents and care about the work they do to help residents of the County. He thanked the

residents of Union County and said that it was an honor to work for them. He offered his special thanks to Kathy Villaggio and wished her well on her retirement.

Vice Chairman Kowalski offered her condolences to the families of the victims in Florida. She noted that the Board stands in support of sensible gun control legislation, noting that the Executive Budget highlights working with Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in New Jersey through the Gun Buyback Program.

Vice Chairman Kowalski made comments relative to a County event offered through the UC HERO initiative for the County's female veteran population: "Boots to Heels" event on February 24, 2018.

Chairman Granados noted that the Board will be cancelling the March 1st Agenda Setting Session and will hold a "Double Meeting" on March 8, 2018.

Chairman Granados thanked County Manager Faella and Kathy Villaggio and extended his well wishes on their retirement.

ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Granados called for a motion to adjourn.

On a motion made by Freeholder Jalloh and seconded by Freeholder Carter, a voice vote showed roll call showed nine members of the Board voted in the affirmative. Meeting was adjourned at 8:56pm.

UNION COUNTY BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS 2018 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 7, 2018 at 12:00 pm Assignment Judge Karen M. Cassidy's Courtroom, 2 Broad Street, Elizabeth, NJ

AGENDA SETTING SESSION

January 18, 2018

February 1, 2018

February 15, 2018

March 1, 2018

March 22, 2018

April 12, 2018

April 26, 2018

May 10, 2018

May 24, 2018

June 7, 2018

June 21, 2018

July 12, 2018

August 9, 2018

September 6, 2018

September 27, 2018

October 4, 2018

October 25, 2018

November 8, 2018

December 13, 2018

December 20, 2018

REGULAR MEETINGS

January 25, 2018

February 8, 2018

February 15, 2018

March 8, 2018

March 22, 2018

April 19, 2018

April 26, 2018

May 17, 2018

May 24, 2018

June 14, 2018

June 21, 2018

July 19, 2018

August 16, 2018

September 13, 2018

September 27, 2018

October 11, 2018

October 25, 2018

November 29, 2018

December 13, 2018

December 20, 2018