



UNION COUNTY BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS

THURSDAY, MAY 3, 2018
AGENDA SETTING MEETING MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Sergio Granados presided over the meeting and called the meeting to order at 7:05pm.

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 Edward Oatman, 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.

PRESENTATIONS

A resolution presentation will be made by Freeholder Chris Hudak to Linden High School students Jade Rodrigues and Taylor Battle recognizing their artistic talents and recognizing them for representing the state of New Jersey at the 140th Annual Easter Egg Roll at the White House.

Chairman Granados called upon Freeholder Hudak for the evening's first presentation.

Freeholder Hudak called upon Taylor Battle and Jade Rodrigues to join him. Freeholder Hudak made comments relative to the White House Easter Egg Roll, noting that it started 140 years ago. He stated that students across the 50 states had an opportunity to design an egg to represent their state (and to be displayed on the White House lawn). He commended Taylor and Jade (of Linden High School) for their artistic abilities as their egg had been chosen to represent the State of New Jersey.

Freeholder Hudak noted that Taylor will be attending Kean University and studying architecture, and Jade would be taking advantage of the UCSTARS program, and then will attend NJIT.

Jade Rodrigues and Taylor Battle made comments about the program; noting that they only had 3 days to accomplish the project. They thanked their graphic design teacher, Mrs. Heverin, for her

guidance. They spoke on the limitation of time and of colors, and spoke of their use of Photoshop and Adobe Illustrator.

Freeholder Hudak stated the students were smart, talented, and when a microphone, perform under pressure.

A presentation will be made by Scotch Plains Mayor Alexander Smith, Project Coordinator Tom Strowe, and Human Resource Manager Margaret Heisey to the Board relative to the Sandy Hook Promise; an apolitical non-profit organization whose “Know The Signs” programs are researched-based programs and practices to help protect children from gun violence in our homes, schools, and communities.

Chairman Granados called upon the Honorable Mayor Smith for the evening’s second presentation.

Mayor Alexander Smith, of Scotch Plains, made a presentation to the Freeholders relative to a plan to prevent gun violence. He made comments relative to the goals and implementation of the Sandy Hook Promise; a program that concentrates on how to work with the students to make schools more inclusive and prevent bullying. He presented the Board with a 6 minute video.

He encouraged the Mayors in the audience (to receive grant awards later in the meeting). He noted that he is a “Promise Leader” and advised what steps can be taken for others to join him as a “Promise Leader.” He made comments relative to the township of Schotch Plains’ participation in the “Just Say Hello” program, which is the first step of the “Sandy Hook Promise” initiative. He made comments relative to the legislation introduced in the State Assembly: Extreme Risk Protective Order Act of 2018; allowing for a procedure where a loved one can report an individual to the police which would prohibit, with judicial review, the individual from purchasing a weapon and/or issue a warrant to seize weapons if they are deamed a potential threat to the public or themselves.

Freeholder Mirabella thanked the Mayor for his presentation. He advised Mayor Smith that the Board previously voted in support of the “Sandy Hook Promise” and would forward the resolution to the other 20 municipalities asking them to join in support of the program.

Resolution presentations will be made by Chairman Sergio Granados, Freeholder Alexander Mirabella and Freeholder Christopher Hudak to the recipients of the 2018 Union County Level The Playing Field Grant Program and the 2018 Union County Infrastructure Grant Program.

Chairman Granados acknowledged that Freeholder Hudak was the driving force in creating the Infrastucture Grant and thanked Freeholder Mirabella, as Chairman of the Trust Fund Subcommittee, for his assistance in establishing the Level the Playing Field Grants as part of one of his Chairman Initiatives. He stated that the grants would create an inclusive playground in each of the municipalitie, noting that the County of Union is the first county to provide inclusive playgrounds in all its municipalities.

Freeholder Mirabella thanked Chairman Granados on his vision. He made comments on the County's successes in providing inclusive opportunities to all individuals, noting the success of the County's Sensory Friendly Theatre program. He stated that he was proud of all of the towns for taking advantage of this grant opportunity.

Freeholder Hudak made comments relative to history of the Infrastructure Grants, noting the Board, under then Chairman Jalloh, collectively supported using the proceeds from the sale of Runnells Specialized Hospital to be used to invest money into the local infrastructure. He stated that the County has contributed \$6 million since 2015, noting that each municipality has received funding every year since its inception. He added that the grant is a dollar-for-dollar matching grant, resulting in a total of \$12 million in infrastructure improvements.

Representatives from each of the municipalities and received a presentation check for both grant programs and provided an overview of how the funds were to be used.

Chairman Granados thanked the County Trust Fund Administrator Drake, Judy Binaris and Edee Marie on their involvement in administering the Level the Playing Field grants, and Deputy County Manager Wagner and Kathy (Addressa) on the administration of the Infrastructure Grants.

APPROVAL OF COMMUNICATIONS

Note and File

Oath of Office: Mental Health Advisory Board: Joseph Ume; Union County College Board of Trustees: Nicholas Fixmer; Union County Homeless Trust Fund Advisory Board: Brandon Givens and Stelio Papadopoulos; Voter Accessibility Advisory Committee: Sergio Granados.

Chairman Granados noted that the Board would approve the communications at the next Regular Meeting.

DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

Ron Charles, Director

1. Authorizing the County Manager to enter into a Shared Services Agreement with the County of Essex Department of Corrections Newark, NJ for relocation of inmates on an as needed basis for the contract period of May 1, 2018 through December 31, 2018, per diem cost of \$98.00 per inmate per day in an amount not to exceed \$96,040.00. **(Chairman Sergio Granados)**

Freeholder Jalloh asked the Director to provide further clarification.

Director Charles advised that this contract would allow for alternative housing for individuals in instances that involve co-defendants and for those with crimes against staffers.

Freeholder Jalloh inquired as to the frequency of utilizing such a contract.

Director Charles advised that there typically are 4 individuals transferred to Essex County.

DEPARTMENT OF ENGINEERING, PUBLIC WORKS & FACILITIES MANAGEMENT

Joseph Graziano, Director

Division Director Charles Charafesi represented the Department.

There were no questions or comments by the Board.

1. Resolution ratifying permission granted to the City of Linden to hang a banner over Wood Avenue near Curtis Street and Elizabeth Avenue from May 1, 2018 to May 10, 2018 to promote the Police Unity Tour which will be held on Wednesday, May 9, 2018. **(Vice Chairman Bette Jane Kowalski)**
2. Resolution granting permission to the City of Linden to hang banners and/or street closures for the following events: September to Remember – Saturday, September 29, 2018 – closing of Wood Avenue, from Elizabeth Avenue to Gesner Street, from 6:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. with a rain date of Sunday, September 30, 2018. Also, to hang a banner advertising the event on North Wood Avenue between Curtis Street and Gibbons Street and Elizabeth and Wood Avenue from August 20, 2018 through September 30, 2018. Also, granting permission to close Wood Avenue on Friday, October 5, 2018 from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. for the Annual Fire Prevention and Life Safety Fair. **(Vice Chairman Bette Jane Kowalski)**
3. Resolution concurring with the Township of Berkeley Heights granting permission to Smith Chiropractic to hang a banner across Springfield Avenue from August 13, 2018 to September 24, 2018 for the Annual Berkeley Heights 5K Run to be held on Sunday, September 16, 2018. **(Vice Chairman Bette Jane Kowalski)**
4. Resolution granting permission to the City of Linden to a hang banner over Wood Avenue, at Curtis Street and at Elizabeth Avenue from May 19, 2018 to August 19, 2018 to promote the farmers market which will be held on Saturday's beginning May 19, 2018 through October 27, 2018. **(Vice Chairman Bette Jane Kowalski)**

DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE

Bibi Taylor, Director

1. Resolution to exceed the County tax levy limit and to establish a CAP Bank (N.J.S. 40A: 4-45.14) **(Freeholder Bruce H. Bergen)**
2. Resolution Adopting the 2018 County of Union Budget. **(Freeholder Bruce H. Bergen)**

Chairman Granados asked the Director to provide futher clarification.

Director Taylor advised that the County received notification from the State authorizing the County to adopt its budget pending the approval from the Department of Human Servics relative to the Social Services budget.

Freeholder Hudak inquired if there is any chance the Social Services budget will not be approved.

Director Taylor advised that the review is a normal procedure in the State's approval of all budgets, noting that there is a staffing issue that has resulted in not officially getting the approval. Director

Taylor advised that at this time there are no scheduled amendments to the County Budget, and that it was unlikely to have any delay in the County's adoption of its budget.

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

Debbie-Ann Anderson, Director

Division Director Maureen Glenn represented the Department.

1. Authorizing the County Manager to approve the 2018 Union County GAP One-Time Spending Plan pursuant to a Request for Proposal (RFP) procurement process in the total amount not to exceed \$370,905 for subcontracted services to be provided during the period of June 1, 2018 through December 31, 2018; further the authorizing the transfer of funds among the agencies during the contract period should service needs change and/or if any of the agencies fails to meet its contractual obligation. **(Vice Chairman Bette Jane Kowalski)**

Chairman Granados inquired as to who would utilize the services.

Division Director Glenn advised that the service is primarily for emergency housing and homeless prevention.

2. Amending Resolution 2016-590 entering into contract with Urban League of Union County, Elizabeth, NJ, to extend the contract period only for a new contract period of August 1, 2016 through December 31, 2018; all other terms of contract remain the same. **(Vice Chairman Bette Jane Kowalski)**
3. Amending Resolution 2016-541 entering into contract with Bridgeway Rehabilitation Services, Inc., Elizabeth, NJ, to reduce the total amount of the contract by \$30,000 for a new total contract amount of \$191,211.38 and to extend the contract period an additional six (6) months for a new contract period of July 1, 2016 through December 31, 2018; all other terms of contract remain the same. **(Vice Chairman Bette Jane Kowalski)**

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION

Ron Zuber, Director

1. Authorizing the County Manager to Execute an Amendment to the Green Acres Grant approved in the amount of \$900,000 to reflect a change in scope to the Oak Ridge Project to include an athletic track and field. **(Chairman Sergio Granados)**

Freeholder Hudak inquired if the change was in scope only, or if there was a change in the amount as well.

Director Zuber advised that it is a change in scope, noting that the County was originally eligible for \$3.2 million. He advised that the Skating Center was not eligible for Green Acres funding, which was the reason the County changed the scope to include a Track and Field component. He advised that the new change in scope allowed for the release of the remaining \$900,000 for this project.

DIVISION DIRECTOR GLENN**FREEHOLDER SPONSORED RESOLUTIONS**

1. Resolution determining that the 2018 Union County Budget shall be read by title and declaring that the public hearing conditions set forth pursuant to N.J.S.A.:40A: 4-8(1a)(1b) have been satisfied. **(Freeholder Bruce H. Bergen)**
2. Appointing the following members to the Emergency Management Council for a term ending December 31, 2018: Ed Oatman (County Manager), Andrew Moran (Public Safety Director), Christopher Scaturo (OEM Coordinator), Chris Debbie (County Police Chief), William Kane (Deputy OEM Coordinator), Frederic Fretz (Fire Coordinator), Gareth Williams (EMS Coordinator), Thomas Mineo (Damage Assessment/County Engineer), Sebastian D'Elia (Public Information Officer), Michael Redding (Elizabethtown Gas), Michael Monahan (Acting Prosecutor), Peter Corvelli (Sheriff), Joseph Graziano, Jr. (DPW Director), Annarely McNair (Health Officer) and Michael McIntyre (Salvation Army). **(Freeholder Angel G. Estrada)**
3. Re-appointing Robert Ehrenbeck to the Union County Transportation Advisory Board as an At-Large member for a term ending December 31, 2018. **(Freeholder Angela R. Garretson)**
4. Authorizing the County Manager to Execute an Amendment to an existing Green Acres Grant for the County Open Space and Recreation Plan to accept an additional \$1,500,000 in funding. **(Freeholder Alexander Mirabella)**
5. Appointing the following members to the Fire Services Advisory Board for a term ending December 31, 2018: Joseph Moschello (Fire Prevention Association), Steven Ruhl (Fire Academy Dean), Gary Steitz (Fire Investigation Representative), Andrew Moran (Public Safety Director), Christopher Scaturo (Emergency Services Director/Chief), William Kane (Emergency Services Deputy), Eric Evers (Chief, Combo Department), Joseph Signorello, (Chief, Volunteer Department , (Thomas McNamara (Largest City Fire Chief), Michael Scanio (2nd Largest City Fire Chief), Dan Czeh (President, Fire Chief Association), Fred Fretz (County Fire Coordinator) and Kristen Von St. Paul (Emergency Services Support Staff). **(Freeholder Alexander Mirabella)**
6. Congratulating the County Volunteer of the Year award recipients and the Municipal Volunteer of the Year award recipients by the Local Advisory Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse (LACADA) at its Recognition Dinner on May 8, 2018. **(Chairman Sergio Granados & Freeholder Angela Garretson)**
7. Congratulating the award recipients of the Union County Educational Services Foundation at their Awards reception on May 10th. **(Chairman Sergio Granados)**

Freeholder Bergben advised he would have sponsorship resolutions as a result of a recent Fiscal Subcommittee meeting.

Freeholder Carter advised that she would have additional laudatory resolutions to add to the next Regular Meeting agenda.

Chairman Granados advised that he would have additional laudatory resolutions to add to the next Regular Meeting agenda.

ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Granados asked for a motion to adjourn. On a motion made by Freeholder Mirabella and seconded by Freeholder Hudak, a voice vote showed nine members of the Board voted in the affirmative. The meeting was adjourned at 8:01pm.

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**

<u>AGENDA SETTING SESSION</u>	<u>REGULAR MEETINGS</u>
January 18, 2018	January 25, 2018
February 1, 2018	February 8, 2018
February 15, 2018	February 15, 2018
March 1, 2018*	March 8, 2018
March 22, 2018	March 22, 2018
April 12, 2018	April 19, 2018
April 26, 2018	April 26, 2018
May 10, 2018**	May 17, 2018
May 24, 2018	May 24, 2018
June 7, 2018	June 14, 2018***
June 21, 2018	June 21, 2018
July 12, 2018	July 19, 2018
August 9, 2018	August 16, 2018
September 6, 2018	September 13, 2018
September 27, 2018	September 27, 2018
October 4, 2018	October 11, 2018
October 25, 2018	October 25, 2018
November 8, 2018	November 29, 2018
December 13, 2018	December 13, 2018
December 20, 2018	December 20, 2018

*March 1, 2018 Agenda Setting Session was cancelled and rescheduled for March 8, 2018 at 7pm. The originally scheduled Regular Meeting for March 8, 2018 at 7:00pm was rescheduled to immediately start following the completion of the Agenda Setting Session.

**May 10, 2018 Agenda Setting Session was cancelled and rescheduled for May 3, 2018 at 7pm.

***June 14, 2018 Regular Meeting was cancelled and rescheduled for June 7, 2018 to commence immediately after the conclusion of the scheduled June 7, 2018 Agenda Setting Session.