



UNION COUNTY BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2019
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Kowalski presided over the meeting and called the meeting to order at 7:45 P.M.

ROLL CALL

Roll call showed Chairman Bette Jane Kowalski, Vice Chairman Alexander Mirabella Freeholder Angel G. Estrada, Freeholder Angela R. Garretson, Freeholder Sergio Granados, Freeholder Christopher Hudak, Freeholder Kimberly Palmieri – Mouded, Freeholder Andrea Staten, and Freeholder Rebecca Williams were present.

Also present were Deputy County Manager Amy Wagner, 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

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

Note and File

Oath of Office: Advisory Council on Aging: Nathaniel Bullock; Emergency Management Council: Peter Corvelli, Chris Debbie, Sebastian D'Elia, Frederic Fretz, Joseph Graziano, Anarely McNair, Thomas Mineo, Andrew Moran, Edward Oatman, Christopher Scaturo, and Gareth Williams; Transportation Advisory Board: Robert Beiner, Christopher Capodice, Louis DeSocio, William Hoover, David Judd, Joseph Signorello, III and Joseph Venezia.

PUBLIC COMMENT PORTION

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

John Bury, of Kenilworth asked questions relative to several resolutions. Relative to Resolution No. 2019-160, Mr. Bury asked what improvements were being made and requested a timeline for these improvements. He asked for more details related to Resolution Nos. 169, 170, and 172.

Relative to Resolution No. 2019-160, Director Graziano advised that the work related to the replacement of a bridge on Route 22. He advised that the county was not responsible for completing this state project. The county's involvement pertained to revisions that would result on jurisdictional maps following the work. He noted that he could not provide a tentative completion date at the moment, but could provide additional information to Mr. Bury as the project progressed.

Relative to Resolution Nos. 169 & 170, County Counsel Barry advised that the initial resolutions were being amended because proposals were received a few months before the Board approved a general increase in rates for said services. As a result of the change, he noted that he opted to have the previously appointed parties submit an acknowledgment accepting the fee change rather than re-execute the initial paperwork they submitted.

Relative to Resolution No. 172, County Counsel Barry advised that UCIA is the title holder for said property and the county only leases it, pursuant to a leaseback agreement. He noted that the process for the Juvenile Detention Center was similar to the process employed in the sale of Runnell's Specialized Hospital. He added that based on a comprehensive analysis of the property and the related bonds, the county and UCIA would determine the most reasonable approach to relinquish the property whether it be through a sale or lease agreement.

RESOLUTIONS

The following Resolutions were offered for adoption:

- 2019-145 FREEHOLDER ANGEL G. ESTRADA:** Authorizing the County Manager to enter into a contract with Sage Eldercare, Summit, New Jersey, for the provision of transportation services through the Union County Paratransit System for Adult Day Care clients attending their programs, based upon scheduled trips provided by the County on Mondays through Fridays for the period of February 1, 2019 through December 31, 2019 for reimbursement in the amount of \$4.00 per one way trip to the County of Union. (Revenue Generating)

On a motion made by Freeholder Granados and seconded by Freeholder Staten, roll call showed nine members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

- 2019-146 FREEHOLDER ANGEL G. ESTRADA:** Authorizing the County Manager to approve the 2019 Statewide Respite Care Spending Plan, pursuant to a Request for Proposal (RFP), in the total amount not to exceed \$304,513 and entering into agreements with various agencies for the period of January 1, 2019 through December 31, 2019, representing contract year one of a three year cycle with the option to renew contracts for two years, to deliver respite services to unpaid caregivers under the Statewide Respite Care Grant; further authorizing the transfer of funds among the funded agencies during the contract period should services needs change and/or if any of the agencies should fail to meet its contractual obligation.

On a motion made by Freeholder Granados and seconded by Freeholder Staten, roll call showed nine members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

- 2019-147 FREEHOLDER ANGEL G. ESTRADA:** Authorizing the County Manager to approve the 2019 Coordinated Community Care Spending Plan, pursuant to a Request for Proposal (RFP), in the total amount not to exceed \$100,000 and entering into agreements with various agencies for the period of January 1, 2019 through December 31, 2019, representing contract year one of a three year cycle with the option to renew contracts for two years, to deliver services to Union County residents 60 years of age or older and/or their caregivers under the 2019-2021 Coordinated Community Care Program; further authorizing the transfer of funds among the funded agencies during the contract period should services needs change and/or if any of the agencies should fail to meet its contractual obligation.

On a motion made by Freeholder Granados and seconded by Freeholder Staten, roll call showed nine members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

- 2019-148 FREEHOLDER CHRISTOPHER HUDAK:** Authorizing the County Manager to enter into an agreement with RG Industries, Mahwah, NJ, to provide necessary repairs to the UASI Neptune Pump in an amount not to exceed \$27,454.29 utilizing 2016 Urban Area Security Grant Funding.

On a motion made by Freeholder Granados and seconded by Freeholder Staten, roll call showed nine members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

- 2019-149 FREEHOLDER CHRISTOPHER HUDAK:** Amending Resolution #2018-828, authorizing the County Manager to apply for, accept, and expend an additional \$4,700.00 for the Comprehensive Traffic Safety Program for a total amount not to exceed \$78,800.00

On a motion made by Freeholder Granados and seconded by Freeholder Staten, roll call showed nine members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

- 2019-150 FREEHOLDER CHRISTOPHER HUDAK:** Authorizing the County Manager to enter into an agreement with A&K equipment, Rahway, NJ, for the purchase of two (2) Light Weight Powder Truck Bodies and Ford F350 Cab & Chassis, for the purpose and use by the Union County HazMat Unit, in the amount not to exceed \$39,200.00

On a motion made by Freeholder Granados and seconded by Freeholder Staten, roll call showed nine members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

- 2019-151 FREEHOLDER CHRISTOPHER HUDAK:** Authorizing the County Manager to apply for, accept and expend the FFY 2018 Emergency Management Agency Assistance Grant in the amount of up to \$110,000 with the New Jersey State Police Office of Emergency Management for the performance period of July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2019.

On a motion made by Freeholder Granados and seconded by Freeholder Staten, roll call showed nine members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

- 2019-152 CHAIR BETTE JANE KOWALSKI:** Authorizing the County Manager to enter into an agreement with Dominion Voting Systems, Denver, Colorado, for the purpose of providing

licensing, maintenance and support for the WinEDS 4.0 voting system that remain in operation in the County for the contract period April 1, 2019 through March 31, 2020, in the amount of \$24,000.00.

On a motion made by Freeholder Granados and seconded by Freeholder Staten, roll call showed nine members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

- 2019-153 CHAIR BETTE JANE KOWALSKI:** Authorizing the County Manager through the Union County Prosecutor's Office to enter into an agreement with Life Technologies of Carlsbad, CA to purchase proprietary reagents and supplies in an amount not to exceed \$257,000.00 pursuant to the N.J.S.A. 40A:11-5(dd) exception to bidding.

On a motion made by Freeholder Granados and seconded by Freeholder Staten, roll call showed nine members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

- 2019-154 CHAIR BETTE JANE KOWALSKI:** Amending Resolution Number 2018-292, adopted on March 22, 2018, to extend the contract period for the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act Workforce Innovation Business Center Operator Contract from March 15, 2019 to June 30, 2019. This resolution would provide for the continuation of WIOA Adult, Dislocated Worker and Business Services and additional funds to be awarded, in an amount not to exceed \$220,000.00, for a new contract total not to exceed \$620,000.

On a motion made by Freeholder Granados and seconded by Freeholder Staten, roll call showed nine members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

- 2019-155 CHAIR 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 Management, Division of Engineering: Colonnelli Brothers, Inc., of Hackensack, New Jersey, for the Replacement of Pemberton Avenue Culvert, PL-75, Cedar Brook Park, City of Plainfield, County of Union, New Jersey, for an amount not to exceed \$643,127.00 subject to the approval of the New Jersey Department of Transportation. (BA#1-2019; Union County Engineering Project Number 2010-006A)

On a motion made by Freeholder Granados and seconded by Freeholder Staten, roll call showed nine members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

- 2019-156 CHAIR 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 Management, Division of Engineering: Colonnelli Brothers, Inc., of Hackensack, New Jersey, for the Replacement of Mountain Avenue Minor Bridge, Be-26 over Stream 3-61-1, Township of Berkeley Heights, County of Union, New Jersey, for an amount not to exceed \$617,121.00 subject to the approval of the New Jersey Department of Transportation. (BA#2-2019; Union County Engineering Project #2013-024)

On a motion made by Freeholder Granados and seconded by Freeholder Staten, roll call showed nine members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

- 2019-157 CHAIR BETTE JANE KOWALSKI:** Authorizing the County Manager to award a contract to Cartegraph Systems, Inc., of Dubuque, Iowa to provide licensing, upgrades and maintenance to the web based Operations Management System with Enterprise Licensing for a one year period commencing January 1, 2019 through December 31, 2019 for an amount not to exceed \$97,500.00.

On a motion made by Freeholder Granados and seconded by Freeholder Staten, roll call showed nine members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

- 2019-158 CHAIR BETTE JANE KOWALSKI:** Authorizing the County Manager to award a contract to ESRI Environmental Systems Research Inc., of Redlands CA for the provision of Maintenance Agreements for the ArcGIS Desktop License which provides GIS Databases and technical support as needed for the period of March 20, 2019 through March 19, 2020 in an amount not to exceed \$21,000.00.

On a motion made by Freeholder Granados and seconded by Freeholder Staten, roll call showed nine members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

- 2019-159 CHAIR BETTE JANE KOWALSKI:** Amending Resolution Number 2017-925 adopted on November 21, 2017; BA#39-2017, a contract awarded through advertised public bidding in accordance with the Local Public Contracts Law, N.J.S.A. 40A:11-1 et seq., to Reivax Contracting Corporation, of Newark, New Jersey, approving Change Order Number 1 (final) for the Replacement of Locust Drive Culvert near Tulip Street (Su105), City of Summit, New Jersey. This Change Order will reduce the original contract amount by (\$67,603.16) for a new contract amount not to exceed \$819,765.84. (Union County Engineering Project Number 2010-005C)

On a motion made by Freeholder Granados and seconded by Freeholder Staten, roll call showed nine members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

- 2019-160 CHAIR BETTE JANE KOWALSKI:** Authorizing the County Manager to enter into a Jurisdictional Agreement Number 4834 between the County of Union and the State of New Jersey Department of Transportation associated with the Route 22 Chestnut Street Bridge Replacement Improvements, County of Union, New Jersey. The Improvements will affect Chestnut Street (CR619) and West Chestnut Street (CR626), Township of Union.

On a motion made by Freeholder Granados and seconded by Freeholder Staten, roll call showed nine members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

- 2019-161 CHAIR BETTE JANE KOWALSKI:** Authorizing the County Manager to award a Professional Engineering Service Contract, through a Request for Proposal (RFP) process, to Maser Consulting of Red Bank, New Jersey to provide design and inspection services related to the stormwater system upgrades in compliance with NJDEP for drainage improvements at

Eastbound C.R. 622, MP. 0.35 (Mountain Avenue), Berkeley Heights, New Jersey for an amount not to exceed \$19,600.00. (Union County Engineering Project Number 2019-003)

On a motion made by Freeholder Granados and seconded by Freeholder Staten, roll call showed nine members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

- 2019-162 CHAIR BETTE JANE KOWALSKI:** Authorizing the County Manager to award a contract to Whitaker Brothers North, Bristol, PA for the purchase and installation of a new MA123EX Audio System for the UC Courthouse, 2 Broad Street, Elizabeth, NJ, for an amount not to exceed \$31,424.24.

On a motion made by Freeholder Granados and seconded by Freeholder Staten, roll call showed nine members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

- 2019-163 CHAIR BETTE JANE KOWALSKI:** Amending Resolution Number 2017-647, adopted August 17, 2017, for the purpose of requesting a company name change from Shaban, Inc. to Harry Kute, Inc. Awarded contract will continue to providing Kitchen Exhaust Systems Service for a term of September 12, 2017 through September 11, 2019, not to exceed the amount of \$64,998.

On a motion made by Freeholder Granados and seconded by Freeholder Staten, roll call showed nine members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

- 2019-164 CHAIR BETTE JANE KOWALSKI:** Amending Resolution Number 2018-637, awarding a contract to McCloskey Mechanical Contractors, Inc. , Blackwood, NJ.BA# 34-2018 for the purpose providing A/C & Refrigeration Systems Repairs, Maintenance and Installation Services, to reflect a change in account numbers only. All other terms and condition remain the same.

On a motion made by Freeholder Granados and seconded by Freeholder Staten, roll call showed nine members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

- 2019-165 CHAIR BETTE JANE KOWALSKI:** Resolution ratifying permission granted to the Township of Scotch Plains to hang a banner on Park Avenue from January 14, 2019 to January 22, 2019 announcing the Martin Luther King event.

On a motion made by Freeholder Granados and seconded by Freeholder Staten, roll call showed nine members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

- 2019-166 CHAIR BETTE JANE KOWALSKI:** Resolution concurring with the Borough of Kenilworth to close the Boulevard from 14th Street to 24th Street on Sunday, May 19, 2019 from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. for the 2019 Annual Street Fair.

On a motion made by Freeholder Granados and seconded by Freeholder Staten, roll call showed nine members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

- 2019-167 CHAIR BETTE JANE KOWALSKI:** Resolution concurring with the Borough of Roselle Park to close Chestnut Street, from Charles Street to Webster Avenue, on Saturday, September 28, 2019 from 7:00 a.m. to 9:30 p.m. for the 2019 Arts Festival.

On a motion made by Freeholder Granados and seconded by Freeholder Staten, roll call showed nine members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

- 2019-168 CHAIR BETTE JANE KOWALSKI:** Amending Resolution Number 2016-921 adopted on November 22, 2016, BA#47-2016, a contract awarded through advertised public bidding in accordance with the Local Public Contracts Law, N.J.S.A. 40A: 11-1 et seq; to Grade Construction of Paterson, New Jersey for the Meisel Park Pond Improvement Project; approving Change Order Number 1 (final) reducing the original contract amount by (\$204,970.26) for a new contract amount not to exceed \$636,759.79. (Union County Engineering Project Number 2011-014B).

On a motion made by Freeholder Granados and seconded by Freeholder Staten, roll call showed nine members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

- 2019-169 CHAIR BETTE JANE KOWALSKI:** Amending Resolution 2019-17 adopted January 6, 2019 to add the Law Firm of Florio, Perrucci, Steinhardt & Cappelli, LLC, of Rochelle Park, NJ to the approved list of Qualified Litigation Defense Counsel, for the period of January 1, 2019 through December 31, 2019.

On a motion made by Freeholder Granados and seconded by Freeholder Staten, roll call showed nine members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

- 2019-170 CHAIR BETTE JANE KOWALSKI:** Amending Resolution 2018-1128 adopted December 20, 2018 to add the Law Firm of Purcell, Mulcahy & Flanagan to the approved list of Qualified Labor/Personnel Counsel for the period of January 1, 2019 through December 31, 2019.

On a motion made by Freeholder Granados and seconded by Freeholder Staten, roll call showed nine members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

- 2019-171 CHAIR BETTE JANE KOWALSKI:** A Resolution appointing Kologi & Simitz of Linden, NJ as special counsel to represent John Kaminskas in the matter entitled Emmanuel Mervilus v. UC, et als, in an amount not to exceed \$20,000.00.

On a motion made by Freeholder Granados and seconded by Freeholder Staten, roll call showed nine members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

- 2019-172 CHAIR BETTE JANE KOWALSKI:** Resolution authorizing the County Manager to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with the Union County Improvement Authority (the Authority) to solicit proposals from qualified entities for the Lease or Purchase of the Union County Juvenile Detention Facility and directing the Authority to deliver an amended Exhibit A to the Lease Purchase Agreement to include professional and other services and related work in connection with this undertaking, in an amount not to exceed \$325,000.

On a motion made by Freeholder Granados and seconded by Freeholder Staten, roll call showed nine members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

- 2019-173 FREEHOLDER SERGIO GRANADOS, CHAIR BETTE JANE KOWALSKI:** Amending Resolution #2019-133, a contract with Groundwork Elizabeth, to include for the administration of the UC Kids Dig In! A School Garden Grant program in the amount of \$50,000.00, combined with the already authorized \$50,000.00 towards the administration of the Union County Means Green Community Garden Grants, for a new total not to exceed \$100,000.00.

On a motion made by Freeholder Granados and seconded by Freeholder Staten, roll call showed nine members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

- 2019-174 CHAIR BETTE JANE KOWALSKI:** Authorizing the County Manager to award a contract, as an exception to public bidding pursuant to the Local Public Contracts Law N.J.S.A. 40A:11-5(1)(dd), to Continuum Voice and Data Systems, Inc., Syracuse, New York for the purposes of providing proprietary software maintenance services for the OnBase Records Management propriety software system of the County, for the period of January 1, 2019 through December 31, 2019 in an amount not to exceed \$32,633.28.

On a motion made by Freeholder Granados and seconded by Freeholder Staten, roll call showed nine members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

- 2019-175 CHAIR BETTE JANE KOWALSKI, VICE CHAIRMAN ALEXANDER MIRABELLA, FREEHOLDER SERGIO GRANADOS, FREEHOLDER CHRISTOPHER HUDAK & FREEHOLDER ANDREA STATEN:** Resolution supporting Legislative Bills S-477/A-3648, to be considered by the Senate Judiciary on March 7, 2019, which would eliminate the statute of limitations for sexual assault in civil actions, expand the categories of defendants who are potentially liable, and eliminate the protections afforded public entities under the New Jersey Tort Claims Act (TCA) in such actions.

On a motion made by Freeholder Granados and seconded by Freeholder Staten, roll call showed nine members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

FREEHOLDER SPONSORED RESOLUTIONS

- 2019-176 FREEHOLDER ANGELA R. GARRETSON:** Extending the Board's deepest condolences to the family of Hillside Councilman George Cook upon the passing of his grandmother, Ann Ruth Cook.

On a motion made by Freeholder Granados and seconded by Freeholder Staten, roll call showed nine members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

- 2019-177 FREEHOLDER SERGIO GRANADOS & THE ENTIRE BOARD:** Proclaiming the month of February as National Cancer Prevention Month throughout the County of Union.

On a motion made by Freeholder Granados and seconded by Freeholder Staten, roll call showed nine members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

- 2019-178 FREEHOLDER REBECCA LYNNE WILLIAMS:** Congratulating Shiloh Baptist Church upon celebrating Black History Month on Sunday, February 24, 2019; and further congratulating this year's honorees.

On a motion made by Freeholder Granados and seconded by Freeholder Staten, roll call showed nine members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

- 2019-179 VICE CHAIRMAN ALEXANDER MIRABELLA & THE ENTIRE BOARD:** Congratulating Groundwork Elizabeth upon its Evergreen Annual Gala; and further congratulating six community leaders upon being honored by Groundwork Elizabeth.

On a motion made by Freeholder Granados and seconded by Freeholder Staten, roll call showed nine members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

- 2019-180 CHAIR BETTE JANE KOWALSKI & FREEHOLDER CHRISTOPHER HUDAK:** Congratulating Logan DesRochers of Boy Scout Troop 80, Cranford, upon retaining the rank of Eagle Scout.

On a motion made by Freeholder Granados and seconded by Freeholder Staten, roll call showed nine members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

PUBLIC COMMENT PORTION

This meeting was opened to the public for the purpose of commenting on any governmental issue that a member of the public feels may be of concern to the residents of the county.

Sara Todisco, Mayor of Garwood, thanked Chairman Kowalski for acknowledging her and Council Member Richard McCormack's presence in the audience during the agenda setting meeting. She also thanked Freeholder Granados and Freeholder Williams for their participation in Garwood's first-ever Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service. She concluded by thanking the entire Board for the Infrastructure Grants awarded to the municipalities to fund local improvements, and noted that she looked forward to working with all the Freeholders on future initiatives.

Barbara Krause, of Cranford, Past President of Crane's Ford Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution and 50-year member, addressed the board regarding the cellular tower proposed for the Union County College Cranford campus. She noted that although the Board is not directly responsible for the planned structure, she recognized the Board's influence and ability to heed community concern and act in the best interest of residents. She cited past instances in which the Board had been instrumental in diverting plans, including saving the 700 trees at the U.C.C. Cranford Campus. She outlined her concerns regarding the structure and implored the Board to get involved.

Seeing no additional speakers wishing to speak or comment, Chairman Kowalski closed the public comment portion of the meeting.

FREEHOLDER REPORTS AND COMMENTS

Freeholder Garretson noted various events taking place throughout the county in honor of Black History Month, including the Inaugural Flag Raising Ceremony that took place at the Union County Courthouse. She thanked the Board for participating in the event and acknowledged featured speakers Dr. James Conyers of Kean University and Sheldon Green, the son of late Assemblyman Jerry Green. Freeholder Garretson advised that Assemblywoman Linda S. Carter had intended to participate, but was ultimately unable to attend. She added that Assemblywoman Carter provided a joint Legislative Resolution alongside Senator Nicholas Scutari and Assemblyman James J. Kennedy commending the county for hosting such an auspicious event in honor of Black History Month.

Freeholder Palmieri-Moued promoted Women's History Month noting a free lecture at Westfield Memorial Library entitled "Virginia Apgar, Newborn Babies and the March of Dimes" being presented by David Rose, the National Archivist of the March of Dimes on March 27. She noted that the presentation would focus on the life of Dr. Virginia Apgar, Westfield native, and the brilliant mind behind the Apgar Score, a clinical physical evaluation system for newborns still prominently used today.

Freeholder Staten noted the continuation of the Aging Services Kiosks (ASK) facilitated by the Department of Human Services that provides resources for aging adults and their respective caregivers. She advised that in March ASK would be traveling to several libraries within the county including the Elizabeth, Rahway, Garwood, and Summit libraries among others.

Freeholder Granados extended his gratitude to the Board for approving Resolution No. 2019-173 related to the UC Kids Dig In! A School Garden Grant program. He noted the importance of the initiative as it relates to teaching children about agriculture as well as giving back to the community. He cited that 30% of the produce grown is given to the local soup kitchens, food banks and pantries.

Freeholder Williams wanted to issue a reminder relative to the Arbor Day celebration on April 26 and the Board's partnership with the Shade Tree Advisory Board to sponsor the 2019 Arbor Day Poetry Contest. She provided some background information related to the history of Arbor Day, in particular the emphasis on youth participation as it relates to environmental stewardship. She noted that the poetry contest was open to school children in grades 4-8 and cited the participation entries were due on March 1. She added that interested parties seeking additional information related to the event should contact the Chairman of the Union County Shade Tree Advisory Board, James Nichnadowicz at 908-654-9854.

Freeholder Hudak mentioned the issue of potholes on county roads and advised that concerned residents can report related issues by calling 908-789-3660 or through www.ucnj.org/pot-hole. He noted that this reporting system is incredibly valuable in alerting repair crews and ensuring timely and efficient repairs. He commended the Board for their support and participation in the UC Kids Dig In! program and noted that he has visited several schools and marveled at the school, student, and community participation related to this initiative. Freeholder Hudak applauded Garwood's enthusiasm relative to the Infrastructure Grants awarded to the various municipalities, funded by the sale of Runnell's Specialized Hospital and facilitated by the Improvement Authority. He commended the County Manager and staff for their efforts and approach in relation to the closing of the Juvenile Detention Center, adding that the issue had been and continues to be handled in a responsible and efficient manner, minimizing disruptions. He recognized the role and success of the Improvement Authority related to the sale of Runnell's which ultimately yielded fiscal benefits for the county, in particular providing funding for the Infrastructure Grants.

Vice Chairman Mirabella congratulated Chairman Kowalski on being recognized by Groundwork Elizabeth with the U.C. Spirit of Community Award to be presented at their winter gala next week. He praised Chairman Kowalski as a role model and her tireless efforts to improve the quality of life for county residents, noting that the award was well deserved. Vice Chairman Mirabella noted Freeholder Granados passion related to the Kids Dig in! initiative as well as Freeholder Hudak's advocacy of the Infrastructure Grants. He went on to mention his own passion related to business and his recent participation in the Third Annual Union County Means Business Networking Breakfast. He noted the several Freeholders in attendance including Chairman Kowalski, Freeholder Hudak and Freeholder Palmieri-Mouded. He recognized Deputy County Manager Amy Wagner's participation and thanked her for her leadership and her efforts in facilitating the event. Vice Chairman Mirabella concluded by acknowledging Director Michael Yuska's retirement and praised his work-ethic and professionalism.

Chairman Kowalski acknowledged Wayne Avery and his retirement after many years of service. She noted that he worked for the Parks and Recreation department and was heavily involved in the Baseball Association and the Youth League. She outlined several of Mr. Avery's past professional feats and wished him well on his retirement. Chairman Kowalski noted an upcoming initiative related to Styrofoam recycling. She noted that drop-off sites were available within several, but not all of the county's municipalities including Berkeley Heights, Cranford, Plainfield, and Union. She added that additional information was available on www.ucnj.org/recycle. Chairman Kowalski advised that applications were now being accepted for Union County Means Green Community Garden initiative. She encouraged qualifying groups to join and partake in this community-based program. Chairman Kowalski further noted progress being made as it relates to working with the Raritan Valley Rail Coalition to restore one-seat ride feature. She added that Union County is the largest user of the Raritan Valley Line, citing seven municipalities with eight rail stations being served by that particular rail service. She advised that Department of Transportation as well and NJ Transit and state lawmakers will be holding a listening tour the evening of March 6th with a stop at Westfield Station, to give riders an opportunity to discuss one-seat rides among other rail related services with transportation officials. Freeholder Kowalski concluded by noting Resolution No. 2019-175 related to proposed revisions relative to sexual assault cases. She noted the importance of the potential revisions to existing legislation as it relates to victims of sexual assault and their efforts to seek justice and thanked the Board for their support.

ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Kowalski asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. On a motion made by Vice Chairman Mirabella and seconded by Freeholder Granados a voice vote showed nine members of the Board voted in the affirmative. The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 P.M.

UNION COUNTY BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS 2019 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 6, 2019 at 12:00 pm
Assignment Judge Karen M. Cassidy's Courtroom, 2 Broad Street, Elizabeth, NJ

AGENDA SETTING SESSION

January 17, 2019

February 7, 2019

February 21, 2019

March 7, 2019

March 28, 2019

April 4, 2019

April 25, 2019

May 2, 2019*

May 23, 2019**

June 13, 2019

June 27, 2019

July 25, 2019

August 22, 2019

September 5, 2019

September 26, 2019

October 3, 2019

October 24, 2019

November 7, 2019

December 5, 2019

December 19, 2019

REGULAR MEETINGS

January 24, 2019

February 14, 2019

February 21, 2019

March 14, 2019

March 28, 2019

April 11, 2019

April 25, 2019

May 16, 2019

May 23, 2019**

June 20, 2019

June 27, 2019

July 25, 2019

August 22, 2019

September 12, 2019

September 26, 2019

October 10, 2019

October 24, 2019

November 14, 2019

December 5, 2019

December 19, 2019

AMENDMENTS TO THE 2019 FREEHOLDER MEETING SCHEDULE

* The Agenda Setting Session of May 9, 2019 has been rescheduled to be held on May 2, 2019. Same time and location.

**The Agenda Setting Session and the Regular Meeting of May 30th has been rescheduled to be held on May 23, 2019. Same time and location.