



UNION COUNTY BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS

THURSDAY, MAY 16, 2019
REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Kowalski presided over the meeting and called the meeting to order at 7:10 P.M.

ROLL CALL

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

Also present were County Manager Edward T. 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.

PRESENTATION BY THE BOARD

Resolution presentations were made by the Chair Bette Jane Kowalski and Freeholder Andrea Staten to the winners of the 2019 Young Writers Arbor Day Poetry Contest.

4th Grade Winners

- 1st Place: Adriana Fernandez, School No. 5 - Linden
- 2nd Place: Max Markho, St. Bartholomew Academy – Scotch Plains
- 3rd Place: Sharika Dhar, Mountain Park School – Berkeley Heights

Adriana Fernandez read her winning poem “My Pear Tree”.

5th Grade Winners

- 1st Place: Arianna Kaban, Jefferson Elementary School – Westfield
- 2nd Place: Declan Corrigan, Holy Trinity School – Westfield
- 3rd Place: Leo Quinonez Ruggiero, Lincoln School – Garwood

Arianna Kaban read her winning poem “Beautiful Tree”.

6th Grade Winners

- 1st Place: Adam Schupak, Lincoln School – Garwood

- 2nd Place: Richard Howard, Lincoln School – Garwood
3rd Place: Annelyse Zaccaria, Holy Trinity School – Westfield

Adam Schupak read her winning poem “Fall Woods”.

7th Grade Winners

- 1st Place: Alyssa Schlauberg, Lincoln School – Garwood
2nd Place: Jackie Link, Edison Intermediate School – Westfield
3rd Place: Caroline Kirscher, Edison Intermediate School – Westfield

Alyssa Schlauberg read her winning poem “The Seasons of Trees”.

8th Grade Winners

- 1st Place: Kelly Hanratty, Deerfield Middle School – Mountainside
2nd Place: Aedan Paredes, Lincoln School – Garwood
3rd Place: Mackenzie Cruz, Lincoln School – Garwood

Kelly Hanratty read her winning poem “The Lucky Sprout”.

Chairman Kowalski commended the winners on their poems and thanked the students’ respective teachers and parents. She encouraged the students to continue writing and applauded their respective works as well as their love and regard for nature and the environment.

APPROVAL OF COMMUNICATIONS

Note and File

Oath of Office: Emergency Management Council: Michael Redding; Union County Transportation Advisory Board: Natalie Chin, Marvin Gertsen and Meera Rao.

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. January 6, 2019 - Reorganizational Meeting
2. January 17, 2019 - Agenda Setting Session
3. January 24, 2019 - Regular Meeting
4. February 7, 2019 - Agenda Setting Session
5. February 14, 2019 - Regular Meeting
6. February 21, 2019 - Agenda Setting Session
7. February 21, 2019 - Regular Meeting
8. March 7, 2019 - Agenda Setting Session
9. March 14, 2019 - Regular Meeting
10. March 28, 2019 - Agenda Setting Session
11. March 28, 2019 - Regular Meeting
12. April 4, 2019 - Agenda Setting Session
13. April 11, 2019 - Regular Meeting
14. April 25, 2019 - Agenda Setting Session
15. April 25, 2019 - Regular Meeting

Chairman Kowalski called for a motion to approve the Minutes. On a motion made by Freeholder Granados and seconded by Freeholder Staten, roll call showed seven votes in the affirmative for the January 6th reorganization meeting as well as the January 17th, January 24th, February 21st, March 7th, March 14th, March 28th, and April 25th respective agenda setting and regular meetings; six votes in the affirmative for the February 17th agenda meeting, with Freeholder Estrada abstaining; five votes in the affirmative for the February 14th regular meeting, with Freeholder Garretson and Freeholder Staten abstaining; six votes in the affirmative for the April 4th agenda meeting and April 11th regular meeting, with Freeholder Garretson abstaining.

SUSPENSION OF THE RULES

Chairman Kowalski outlined certain changes to customary meeting procedures that would be in effect as a means to accommodate the large volume of people wishing to speak relative to Resolution No. 2019-414.

Chairman Kowalski called for a motion to suspend the rules. On a motion made by Freeholder Granados and seconded by Freeholder Garretson, roll call showed seven members of the Board voted in the affirmative; with Vice Chairman Mirabella and Freeholder Hudak absent.

PUBLIC COMMENT PORTION

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

Bruce Paterson, of Garwood, made comments relative to the suspension of the rules as well as several resolutions. Relative to Resolution No. 2019-390, he asked for the price of the extension option. Relative to Resolution No. 2019-401, he asked for the original contract amount. Relative to Resolution No. 2019-403, he asked the Board to elaborate on the settlement. Relative to Resolution No. 2019-413, he asked for a dollar amount relative to the increase in funding.

Chairman Kowalski reiterated the reasoning behind the cited modifications to the traditional meeting format, noting that speaking time for members of the public had been adjusted to 3 minutes.

Relative to Resolution No. 2019-390, Director Anderson advised that this item related to a new annual contract that would cost \$367,000 for the initial year. She added that opting to extend the contract for another year would yield the same cost.

Relative to Resolution No. 2019-401, Division of Facilities Management Director Charles Chirafesi, representing the Department of Engineering, Public Works and Facilities Managements, advised that the original contract amount was \$230,780.

Relative to Resolution No. 2019-403, County Counsel Barry advised that the item related to an extensive personal injury matter. He added that under the recommendation of County Counsel and other independent counsel, a settlement of \$375,000 was accepted. He further

added that under the terms of the insurance policy, the county was required to furnish the first \$250,000 of the settlement amount, with the insurance company responsible for the difference.

Relative to Resolution No. 2019-413, Chairman Kowalski noted that the state had yet to approve their respective budget, hence why no amount was cited in the resolution. She added that NJ Transit has long since been neglected which is why the Board supports increases in funding to facilitate necessary improvements and additions.

Chairman Kowalski read the body of Resolution No. 2019-414 in its entirety.

Justin Quinn, of Cranford, and member of No High Voltage Cranford (NHVC) outlined his concerns relative to the high-voltage powerlines.

David Krieger, of Westfield, outlined a similar plan scheduled for Westfield, noting that overwhelming resident response managed to temporarily thwart the plans, until a more feasible route could be proposed. He offered his support to Cranford residents facing a similar plight and argued against the necessity of the proposed project.

Pamela Kevelson, of Westfield, expressed her opposition to the proposed route of the powerlines, noting that PSE&G was researching alternative, less disruptive routes in Westfield for the project. She outlined her concerns relative to PSE&G and offered recommendations to the Board as a means to impede such projects in the future.

Kathy D'Amobla, of Cranford, expressed her concerns and opposition relative to the proposed high-voltage powerlines, outlining several perceived health-related risks associated with the project. She thanked the Board for their support as it relates to addressing and seeking an amicable solution to this issue.

Mona Purse, of Westfield, expressed her concern and support for those potentially impacted by the project. She questioned PSE&G's practices, in particular their failure to provide residents with adequate notice regarding the project, which she feels was deliberately done to mitigate community involvement and opposition.

Burim Regaj, owner of Outta Hand Pizza in Westfield, expressed his concerns relative to the project and the negative short-term and long-term effects it could ultimately have on his business. He clarified that he was not opposed to the project, but rather PSE&G's approach to the project, which in his opinion demonstrates complete disregard for the community and its residents.

Jerome Feder, of Westfield, thanked the Board for their support and interest in the issue. He referenced a report submitted to Congress by the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences which addressed the potential health-related hazards associated with exposure to various types of radiation, noting alternatives that could be considered to limit exposure.

Teresa Bowers, of Cranford, outlined several of her concerns related to the high-voltage powerlines, including the perceived health-related risks attributed to being in close proximity to such radiation. As a nurse practitioner, she noted that while existing studies and research did not directly identify radiation as the cause of certain ailments, residential concerns are

valid as risks/dangers cannot be completely discredited and or dismissed. She concluded by thanking the Board for their support in addressing the issue.

Richard Hurley, of Cranford, and President of the Cranford Education Association thanked the Board for supporting the residents' stand against the proposed project. He outlined several potential dangers posed by these high-voltage powerlines corresponding to their close proximity to several elementary schools and daycare centers. He also expressed his concerns relative to the negative effects of these power lines on property values. He closed by questioning the means and motivation of PSE&G in furthering the project, noting their perceived lack of regard for those immediately affected.

Angela Petschow, of Cranford, noted PSE&G's perceived lack of transparency relative to the potential hazards of these high-voltage powerlines. In particular, she referenced the use of potentially toxic chemicals like Pentachlorophenol (Penta), among others to treat and maintain existing and prospective powerlines, noting several alarming side-effects associated with exposure to such chemicals. She recommended that PSE&G pursue alternative measures to further the project or otherwise be held accountable for the potential consequences of their methods and practices.

Kathleen Curran, of Cranford, outlined her concerns related to the powerlines and the potential health-related risks. She thanked the Board for their support and implored them to continue their involvement in hopes of reaching a solution to the problem.

Lyubov Ursic, of Cranford, expressed her concerns relative to the project and questioned the approach and motivations of PSE&G. She asked the Board for their continued support as a means to compel PSE&G to pursue more reasonable alternatives to the proposed project.

Cranford Commissioner Mary O'Connor thanked the Board for the resolution, noting its critical importance relative to the issue and the overall concern surrounding the project, mainly the proposed route and the process through which the project will be achieved. She noted her recent attendance at the PSE&G forum where she had the opportunity to talk with several representatives from the organization as well as members of the community regarding the project. She noted the overwhelmingly negative response from residents which she hoped would positively affect the outcome of the project.

Diana Maldonado, of Cranford, and member of No High Voltage Cranford noted her prior experience with Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) and expressed her concerns relative to the personal protective equipment (PPE) required by PSE&G employees when performing work on utility poles as a means to safeguard them against the chemical agents used to treat the powerlines. She closed by citing the safety and well-being of her children and the children of other residents as her main concern and the driving force behind her opposition.

Bryn Llyod Bollard, of Cranford, outlined the importance of trees and expressed his opposition to having several trees removed along the proposed route. He noted that although PSE&G was willing to replace the removed trees with saplings, the latter would dull in comparison to the fully flourished trees already on site. He concluded by referencing a recent traffic accident on his street, in which a truck snagged a powerline and expressed his concerns relative to how the proposed high-voltage powerlines could have augmented the circumstances and outcome of the traffic incident.

Dr. Kurt Krause, of Cranford, noted the county's responsibility to its residents to fully investigating the necessity of and the potential health-hazards associated with the proposed project.

Mary O'Flynn, of Cranford, thanked the Board for Resolution No. 2019-414. She expressed her concerns relative to the proposed project, outlining instances of how the project seemingly violates certain prescribed regulations of county roads and asked the Board to use these perceived violations to investigate the matter further and ideally influence the outcome.

Christine Javornicky, of Cranford, expressed her concerns relative to the powerlines and argued the case for a less disruptive route for the proposed project.

Nicole Quinn, of Cranford, thanked the Board for their support and asked them to seriously consider and heed the concerns of residents opposed to the project. She outlined her concerns relative to PSE&G and the methods employed thus far to further and complete the proposed project.

David Pringle, of Cranford, outlined his concerns relative to the project. He thanked the Board for their support, noting that due to the overwhelming response received in opposition to the proposed project, PSE&G was seemingly taking into greater consideration the concerns of residents and reviewing alternative routes for the project.

Seeing no additional speakers wishing to comment, Chairman Kowalski closed the public comment portion.

RESOLUTIONS

Freeholder Garretson and Freeholder Granados asked to join Resolution No. 2019-414.

The following Resolutions were offered for adoption:

- 2019-390 FREEHOLDER ANGEL G. ESTRADA:** Authorizing the County Manager to award the proposed contract obtained through advertised public bidding in accordance with the Local Public Contracts Law, NJSA 40A:11-1 et seq: Department of Human Services / Cornerstone Behavioral Health Hospital: Universal Protection Services LLC, for the purpose of providing security coverage to Cornerstone Behavioral Health Hospital of Union County, for twelve (12) consecutive months commencing on July 1, 2019 and ending June 30, 2020; with the option to extend for 2 twelve (12) month periods, in the amount of \$367,218.

On a motion made by Freeholder Granados seconded by Freeholder Garretson roll call showed seven members of the Board voted in the affirmative; with Vice Chairman Mirabella and Freeholder Hudak absent.

- 2019-391 FREEHOLDER KIMBERLY PALMIERI-MOUED:** Authorizing the County Manager to award a contract to Children's Specialized Hospital, Mountainside, New Jersey, for the provision of the Special Child Case Management and Early Intervention Program, for the period of January 1, 2019 through December 31, 2019 in the

amount not to exceed \$50,000; funds represent the match as stipulated by State Statute (Title 9:13-7 and 8) requiring the County to match the Special Child Case Management and Early Intervention grant from NJ Department of Health and Senior Services.

On a motion made by Freeholder Granados seconded by Freeholder Garretson roll call showed seven members of the Board voted in the affirmative; with Vice Chairman Mirabella and Freeholder Hudak absent.

- 2019-392 FREEHOLDER KIMBERLY PALMIERI-MOUDED:** Authorizing the County Manager to approve the 2019 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, 2019 through December 31, 2019; further authorizing the transfer of funds among the agencies during the contract period should service needs change and/or if any of the agencies fail to meet contractual obligation.

On a motion made by Freeholder Granados seconded by Freeholder Garretson roll call showed seven members of the Board voted in the affirmative; with Vice Chairman Mirabella and Freeholder Hudak absent.

- 2019-393 VICE CHAIRMAN ALEXANDER MIRABELLA, & THE ENTIRE BOARD:** Resolution sponsoring the Township of Springfield's 225th Anniversary Celebration to be held on June 22, 2019 in the amount of \$4,000.

On a motion made by Freeholder Granados seconded by Freeholder Garretson roll call showed seven members of the Board voted in the affirmative; with Vice Chairman Mirabella and Freeholder Hudak absent.

- 2019-394 VICE CHAIRMAN ALEXANDER MIRABELLA, & THE ENTIRE BOARD:** Resolution sponsoring the Borough of Roselle's 2019 House Music Festival to be held on July 13, 2019 in the amount of \$15,000.

On a motion made by Freeholder Granados seconded by Freeholder Garretson roll call showed seven members of the Board voted in the affirmative; with Vice Chairman Mirabella and Freeholder Hudak absent.

- 2019-395 VICE CHAIRMAN ALEXANDER MIRABELLA, & THE ENTIRE BOARD:** Resolution sponsoring the Citizens Going Forward Goodwill Festival to be held on June 1, 2019 in the amount of \$1,500.

On a motion made by Freeholder Granados seconded by Freeholder Garretson roll call showed seven members of the Board voted in the affirmative; with Vice Chairman Mirabella and Freeholder Hudak absent.

- 2019-396 VICE CHAIRMAN ALEXANDER MIRABELLA, & THE ENTIRE BOARD:** Resolution supporting the City of Rahway's Health and Wellness Expo (retroactively April 14), Ready to Glow 5k (May 23), Baile! Dance Party (June 6-June 27), Independence Day Celebration (July 3), Movies on the Plaza (July 11-July 25), Monster Mash Halloween Spooktacular (October 31), and Winter Wonderland (November 29) in the total amount of \$10,000.

On a motion made by Freeholder Granados seconded by Freeholder Garretson roll call showed seven members of the Board voted in the affirmative; with Vice Chairman Mirabella and Freeholder Hudak absent.

- 2019-397 CHAIR BETTE JANE KOWALSKI:** Authorizing the County Manager to award a contract to Air Center, Inc., of Kenilworth, New Jersey for the purchase and installation of an air compressor for the Bureau of Traffic's striping machine for an amount not to exceed \$24,195.00.

On a motion made by Freeholder Granados seconded by Freeholder Garretson roll call showed seven members of the Board voted in the affirmative; with Vice Chairman Mirabella and Freeholder Hudak absent.

- 2019-398 CHAIR BETTE JANE KOWALSKI:** Amending Resolution Number 2018-948, a Professional Architectural Service Contract with The Musial Group, of Mountainside, New Jersey for additional design and construction administration services associated with the Elevator Replacement at the Union County Courthouse Tower in an amount not to exceed \$84,683.00 for a new contract amount not to exceed \$123,063.00. (Union County Engineering Project Number 2018-017)

On a motion made by Freeholder Granados seconded by Freeholder Garretson roll call showed seven members of the Board voted in the affirmative; with Vice Chairman Mirabella and Freeholder Hudak absent.

- 2019-399 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 Facilities Management: Division of Park Maintenance, Waste Management Inc. Ewing, NJ for the purpose of providing Construction Debris Disposal services. The contract shall be for twenty-four (24) consecutive months with the provision for one (1) twenty-four (24) month optional extension commencing upon contract execution for a total contract amount not to exceed \$94,400.00.

On a motion made by Freeholder Granados seconded by Freeholder Garretson roll call showed seven members of the Board voted in the affirmative; with Vice Chairman Mirabella and Freeholder Hudak absent.

- 2019-400 CHAIR BETTE JANE KOWALSKI:** Authorizing the County Manager to award the proposed contract extension originally obtained through advertised public bidding in accordance with the Local Public Contracts Law, NJSA 40A:11-1 et seq; Department of Engineering, Public Work & Facilities, Division of Facilities Management, Eagle Building Services, LLC, Newark, New Jersey, for the purpose of providing Window Cleaning Services, twenty-four (24) consecutive months, in an amount not exceed \$100,500.

On a motion made by Freeholder Granados seconded by Freeholder Garretson roll call showed seven members of the Board voted in the affirmative; with Vice Chairman Mirabella and Freeholder Hudak absent.

- 2019-401 CHAIR BETTE JANE KOWALSKI:** Authorizing the County Manager to award the proposed contract extension originally obtained through advertised public bidding in accordance with the Local Public Contracts Law, NJSA 40A:11-1 et seq: Department of Engineering, Public Work & Facilities, Division of Facilities Management, Oxford Electrical Contractors, Inc., Randolph, NJ, for the purpose of providing Electrical Repair services, twenty-four (24) consecutive months, in an amount not exceed \$200,000.00.

On a motion made by Freeholder Granados seconded by Freeholder Garretson roll call showed seven members of the Board voted in the affirmative; with Vice Chairman Mirabella and Freeholder Hudak absent.

- 2019-402 CHAIR BETTE JANE KOWALSKI:** Authorizing the County Manager to enter into an agreement, with Landscape Solutions, of Union, New Jersey for the purchase of landscaping services for lawn maintenance of small county areas throughout Union County Properties, for a period of June 1, 2019 through December 31, 2019, in the amount not to exceed \$40,000.00.

On a motion made by Freeholder Granados seconded by Freeholder Garretson roll call showed seven members of the Board voted in the affirmative; with Vice Chairman Mirabella and Freeholder Hudak absent.

- 2019-403 CHAIR BETTE JANE KOWALSKI:** A resolution authorizing settlement of pending litigation in the matter entitled Valerie Fischbach v. UC, et als, Docket No. UNN-L-1181-17, in the total amount not to exceed \$375,000.00-County Contribution to be charged to Account No. T-03-56-850-000-537. (County Contribution not to exceed is \$246,467.50, remainder from JIF \$128,532.50).

On a motion made by Freeholder Granados seconded by Freeholder Garretson roll call showed seven members of the Board voted in the affirmative; with Vice Chairman Mirabella and Freeholder Hudak absent.

FREEHOLDER SPONSORED RESOLUTIONS

- 2019-404 FREEHOLDER ANGELA R. GARRETSON:** Resolution proclaiming May 13, 2019 as World Falun Dafa Day throughout Union County; and further congratulating the New Jersey Falun Dafa Association as it celebrates its 20th anniversary.

On a motion made by Freeholder Granados seconded by Freeholder Garretson roll call showed seven members of the Board voted in the affirmative; with Vice Chairman Mirabella and Freeholder Hudak absent.

- 2019-405 FREEHOLDER ANGELA R. GARRETSON:** Congratulating the 50th anniversary of community scholars program at Montclair Kimberly Academy.

On a motion made by Freeholder Granados seconded by Freeholder Garretson roll call showed seven members of the Board voted in the affirmative; with Vice Chairman Mirabella and Freeholder Hudak absent.

- 2019-406 FREEHOLDER SERGIO GRANADOS, FREEHOLDER ANGEL G. ESTRADA, FREEHOLDER ANGELA R. GARRETSON, & FREEHOLDER REBECCA WILLIAMS:** Congratulating the honorees of the Elizabeth's Promise Awards, Inc., at its 13th Annual Scholarship Dinner on May 13, 2019.

On a motion made by Freeholder Granados seconded by Freeholder Garretson roll call showed seven members of the Board voted in the affirmative; with Vice Chairman Mirabella and Freeholder Hudak absent.

- 2019-407 FREEHOLDER ANDREA STATEN, FREEHOLDER ANGELA R. GARRETSON & FREEHOLDER REBECCA LYNNE WILLIAMS:** Resolution recognizing and commending the National Council of Negro Women as they celebrate their 39th Annual Mother's Day Luncheon and Fashion Show; and further congratulating their 2019 Honorees: Les and Pat James (Volunteer of the Year); Andrea Harry (Outstanding Educator); Pastor Pamela Jones (Outstanding Community Leader); Arlene Sumner (Council Woman of the Year); Madison Boyd (Youth Leader of the Year); Imanii Miller (Outstanding Youth); Angela Alvey Wimbush (Businesswoman of the Year); and Reginald Sumner (Outstanding Business Leader).

On a motion made by Freeholder Granados seconded by Freeholder Garretson roll call showed seven members of the Board voted in the affirmative; with Vice Chairman Mirabella and Freeholder Hudak absent.

- 2019-408 FREEHOLDER ANDREA STATEN & THE ENTIRE BOARD:** Resolution recognizing and congratulating the honorees of Concrete Rose Project's 2nd Annual Hidden Figures Youth Excellence Award: Kayla Polite-Hutchins, Arts and Cultural Award; Jesseka Nunly; Athletics/Sportsmanship Award; Iyana Frey, Humanitarian Award; Leadership Award, Arianna Eastwood, Leadership Award; Syrenity Cunningham, Visionary Award; and Johnai Price, Bashon A. Rose Perseverance Award.

On a motion made by Freeholder Granados seconded by Freeholder Garretson roll call showed seven members of the Board voted in the affirmative; with Vice Chairman Mirabella and Freeholder Hudak absent.

- 2019-409 FREEHOLDER ANDREA STATEN:** Resolution congratulating WaWa, of Roselle, on the celebration of their Grand Opening on Thursday, May 9, 2019.

On a motion made by Freeholder Granados seconded by Freeholder Garretson roll call showed seven members of the Board voted in the affirmative; with Vice Chairman Mirabella and Freeholder Hudak absent.

- 2019-410 VICE CHAIRMAN ALEXANDER MIRABELLA & THE ENTIRE BOARD:** Resolution offering this Board's deepest condolences to the family of Bill Populus, the first African American Councilman from Borough of Fanwood, during their time of sorrow.

On a motion made by Freeholder Granados seconded by Freeholder Garretson roll call showed seven members of the Board voted in the affirmative; with Vice Chairman Mirabella and Freeholder Hudak absent.

- 2019-411 CHAIR BETTE JANE KOWALSKI, VICE CHAIRMAN ALEXANDER MIRABELLA & THE ENTIRE BOARD:** Resolution extending the Board's deepest condolences to the family of Anthony Steitz during their time of sorrow.

On a motion made by Freeholder Granados seconded by Freeholder Garretson roll call showed seven members of the Board voted in the affirmative; with Vice Chairman Mirabella and Freeholder Hudak absent.

- 2019-412 CHAIR BETTE JANE KOWALSKI & THE ENTIRE BOARD:** Extending the Board's deepest condolences to the family of Donald Paul Lan, Sr. during their time of sorrow.

On a motion made by Freeholder Granados seconded by Freeholder Garretson roll call showed seven members of the Board voted in the affirmative; with Vice Chairman Mirabella and Freeholder Hudak absent.

- 2019-413 CHAIR BETTE JANE KOWALSKI:** Resolution supporting an increase in funding for NJ Transit in this year's New Jersey State budget to implement both the recommendations outlined in the North Highland Audit Report of NJ Transit and the changes mandated by the NJ Transit Reform bill (S630); and further urging the State Legislature and the Governor's Office to continue to push for reform at NJ Transit, including but not limited to, customer communication, a new procurement process and updated organizational structure, hiring of new staff to address a talent drain, and finding more sustainable operating revenue sources.

On a motion made by Freeholder Granados seconded by Freeholder Garretson roll call showed seven members of the Board voted in the affirmative; with Vice Chairman Mirabella and Freeholder Hudak absent.

- 2019-414 CHAIR BETTE JANE KOWALSKI, FREEHOLDER ANGELA R. GARRETSON, , FREEHOLDER SERGIO GRANADOS, FREEHOLDER CHRISTOPHER HUDAK, FREEHOLDER KIMBERLY PALMIERI-MOUDED, FREEHOLDER ANDREA STATEN & FREEHOLDER REBECCA WILLIAMS:** Resolution supporting the efforts by the County of Union's municipal officials to relocate PSE&G's high-voltage powerlines to areas outside of residential areas; and further recommending a period of public comment and investigation before increasing the voltage in the lines through Union County.

On a motion made by Freeholder Granados seconded by Freeholder Garretson roll call showed seven members of the Board voted in the affirmative; with Vice Chairman Mirabella and Freeholder Hudak absent.

- 2019-415 CHAIR BETTE JANE KOWALSKI & THE ENTIRE BOARD:** Resolution recognizing and congratulating Louis Demondo, Sidney Blanchard, the Weiss Family and Verano on being selected as the honorees of the 2019 Elizabeth Coalition to House the Homeless' "There's No Place Like Home" annual reception to be held on Wednesday, May 22, 2019.

On a motion made by Freeholder Granados seconded by Freeholder Garretson roll call showed seven members of the Board voted in the affirmative; with Vice Chairman Mirabella and Freeholder Hudak absent.

2019-416 CHAIR BETTE JANE KOWALSKI: Resolution congratulating Jonathan Homa of Boy Scout Troop 1, New Providence, upon attaining the rank of Eagle Scout.

On a motion made by Freeholder Granados seconded by Freeholder Garretson roll call showed seven members of the Board voted in the affirmative; with Vice Chairman Mirabella and Freeholder Hudak absent.

2019-417 CHAIR BETTE JANE KOWALSKI: Resolution congratulating Benjamin Homa of Boy Scout Troop 1, New Providence, upon attaining the rank of Eagle Scout.

On a motion made by Freeholder Granados seconded by Freeholder Garretson roll call showed seven members of the Board voted in the affirmative; with Vice Chairman Mirabella and Freeholder Hudak absent.

PUBLIC COMMENT PORTION

Chairman Kowalski thanked the residents and members of the public in attendance for their participation, research, and efforts relative to the Resolution No. 2019-414, noting that PSE&G was considering alternative routes for the proposed project as a result of negative community response.

Freeholder Garretson likewise commended the residents for their concern and efforts, noting her discussions with representatives from PSE&G relative to the issue. She advised that although residents had done great work so far, additional work was required. She encouraged residents to document and maintain a detailed log citing their interactions with PSE&G and keep the Board abreast on any related discussions and developments.

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

Virginia Zachariades, of Cranford, outlined her many attempts and methods for communicating with PSE&G.

David Pilmensten, of Springfield, expressed his concerns related to election candidates leveraging public property for campaign purposes.

County Counsel Barry advised that the county was aware of these infractions and advised that the Board of Elections had been alerted to the issue and was asked to take appropriate action to remedy the problem.

Ronald McCray, of Rahway, expressed his concerns related to drivers' disregard for the cited speed limit on East Hazelwood Ave in Rahway.

Christy Dobles, of Elizabeth, noted that she had been a grant recipient in 2018 and wanted to provide an update to the Board relative to her awarded grant. She provided handouts to Clerk of the Board Pelletiere to distribute amongst the Freeholders.

Bruce Paterson, of Garwood, made comments relative to Resolution No. 2019-414. He also congratulated the winners of the poetry contest, noting a strong display by Garwood. He also referenced NJ Transit, citing certain improvements he would like to see introduced.

Seeing no speakers wishing to comment, Chairman Kowalski closed the public comment portion.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

To the extent known, the following was discussed in Executive Session:

Attorney-Client Privileged Communications and Discussion relative to a possible settlement in the matter of Susan Pearl and Cynthia Pisano v. County of Union, et al.

County Counsel Barry stated that pursuant to provisions of the Open Public Meetings Act, a public body may enter into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing certain enumerated subjects.

He stated that the Board wished to enter into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing Attorney-Client Privileged Communications and discussions relative to a possible settlement in the matter of Susan Pearl and Cynthia Pisano v. County of Union, et al.

He stated that the minutes of the Executive Session shall be separated from the minutes of the Open Public Session and that the minutes of the Executive Session, redacted as appropriate and necessary, shall be available in approximately 30 days. He stated that the Clerk of the Board shall retain the original minutes until such time as the confidential limitations have been removed, at which time they shall be made available.

He stated that upon affirmative vote of the majority of the members present, the Board may enter Executive Session and upon the Board's return may take formal action on the matter discussed.

Chairman Kowalski asked for a motion to enter into Executive Session. On a motion made by Freeholder Granados and seconded by Freeholder Williams a voice vote showed seven members of the Board voted in the affirmative; with Vice Chairman Mirabella and Freeholder Hudak absent.

Chairman Kowalski asked for a motion to return from Executive Session. On a motion made by Freeholder Williams and seconded by Freeholder Staten a voice vote showed seven members of the Board voted in the affirmative; with Vice Chairman Mirabella and Freeholder Hudak absent.

FREEHOLDER REPORTS AND COMMENTS

Freeholder Granados reminded residents that the Board along with PALCUS would be hosting the first Portuguese Flag Raising Ceremony in front of the Union County Court House on Broad Street on May 30th. Relative to PSE&G, he thanked residents for participating in the forum that evening and reassured them that the Board was working diligently to resolve the issue with the community's best interest at the forefront.

Freeholder Williams issued a reminder relative to the public meeting on Tuesday, May 21 at McManus Middle School on the opioid crisis. She added that the forum would provide critical information as well as tools to tackle the growing issue. She also mentioned the upcoming Rhythm & Blues by the Brook festival taking place on June 1st, at Cedar Brook Park in Plainfield.

Freeholder Staten reminder residents about the Master Gardeners' Garden Fair and Plant Sale near the Trailside Nature and Science Center in the Watchung Reservation. She also mentioned the upcoming Union County Women Mean Business seminar at The Clubhouse at Galloping Hill Golf Course in Kenilworth. She thanked the sponsors of the event, in particular Shoprite of Clark for their generous donations.

Freeholder Estrada commented on the overwhelming response received from the community in opposition to PSE&G's proposed project. He expressed his excitement to see residents passionately involved in trying to bring about change related to a concerning development in their community. He commended the participants that evening for being well-versed on the topic and providing valid arguments to support their stance. He also expressed his desire to have the issue addressed and resolved in favor of the affected individuals.

Freeholder Palmieri-Mouded advised that a new clubhouse, which includes a restaurant and pro shop, among other features would be unveiled at Ash Brook Golf Course in Scotch Plains on May 22. She also thanked the residents in attendance for their participation in the discussion related to the PSE&G high-voltage powerlines. As a Westfield resident and mother, she expressed that she too shares similar concerns regarding the project and hopes that PSE&G pursues safe and appropriate routes for the projected upgrade.

Freeholder Garretson thanked Chairman Kowalski as well as Freeholders Hudak and Palmieri-Mouded for introducing Resolution No. 2019-414 and shedding light on the issue as well as the growing concern of residents. She also thanked Freeholders Staten, Williams, and Granados for showing their support and co-sponsoring the resolution prior to adoption. She noted the complexity of the issue at hand and expressed her hope that PSE&G will heed the concerns of residents and consider alternative courses of action. On another note, she mentioned the upcoming ribbon-cutting ceremony for the Contant Park playground in Hillside on Saturday, May 18.

Chairman Kowalski thanked her colleagues for their support related to Resolution No. 2019-414 as well as the residents that expressed their concerns relative to the proposed project. As a Cranford resident, she expressed her support of residents that have taken a vocal and active position against the issue and noted PSE&G's failure to provide adequate notice and discussion related to the proposed project, citing their responsibility to provide electric power to residents in a safe and responsible fashion. On another note, she cited the importance of shared services as a means to save money throughout the various municipalities. She referenced a new directory that was now available which lists the various shared services opportunities that are available within the county. She closed by reminding residents of an upcoming report presentation entitled "A Preventable Crisis, The Economic and Human Costs of a Hudson River Rail Tunnel Shutdown" scheduled for May 23.

ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Kowalski asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. On a motion made by Freeholder State and seconded by Freeholder Williams a voice vote showed seven members of the Board voted in the affirmative; with Vice Chairman Mirabella and Freeholder Hudak absent. The meeting was adjourned at 9:20 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

<u>AGENDA SETTING SESSION</u>	<u>REGULAR MEETINGS</u>
January 17, 2019	January 24, 2019
February 7, 2019	February 14, 2019
February 21, 2019	February 21, 2019
March 7, 2019	March 14, 2019
March 28, 2019	March 28, 2019
April 4, 2019	April 11, 2019
April 25, 2019	April 25, 2019
May 9, 2019*	May 16, 2019
May 30, 2019**	May 30, 2019**
June 13, 2019	June 20, 2019
June 27, 2019	June 27, 2019
July 25, 2019	July 25, 2019
August 22, 2019	August 22, 2019
September 5, 2019	September 12, 2019
September 26, 2019	September 26, 2019
October 3, 2019	October 10, 2019
October 24, 2019	October 24, 2019
November 7, 2019	November 14, 2019
December 5, 2019	December 5, 2019
December 19, 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.