

UNION COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2023
AGENDA SETTING MEETING MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Granados presided over the meeting and called the meeting to order at 6:00 P.M.

ROLL CALL

Roll call showed Chairman Sergio Granados, Vice-Chairwoman Kimberly Palmieri-Mouded, Commissioner Joseph C. Bodek, Commissioner Angela R. Garretson, Commissioner Bette Jane Kowalski, Commissioner Lourdes M. Leon, Commissioner Alexander Mirabella, and Commissioner Rebecca Williams were present, with Commissioner James E. Baker, Jr. absent.

Also present were County Manager Edward T. Oatman, County Counsel Bruce H. Bergen 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 BY THE BOARD

A Black History Month presentation was made by the Board to the Participants of the Hairitage Workshop.

Chairman Granados welcomed the youth participants from the recent Hairitage Workshops that took place during the month of February in honor of Black History Month. He noted that the workshops were informative and incorporating components of history and art. He added that it also provided an outlet for children to learn about the CROWN Act of 2022 and share their personal experiences on the subject. He recognized Sisters Sista Hairstyle of Elizabeth, Beauty and the Chic in Rahway, Hands That Work of Linden, Victoria Braids of Union, JJ Beauty Supplies of Union, Universal Food Market of Rahway, Stop and Shop of Union, and Carol's Daughter of L'Oreal and thanked them for contributing to the County's Hairitage Workshops. He also thanked the Parks and Recreation Departments of Elizabeth, Linden, and Rahway as well as the Elizabeth's Boys and Girls Club for their partnership in these efforts. He also recognized Judith Guest from the County's Office of Community Engagement and Diversity for her efforts in organizing the Hairitage Workshops.

The youth present introduced themselves and displayed the artwork they created during the Hairitage Workshop.

Chairman Granados called upon Commissioner Bodek and Commissioner Williams to join him.

Chairman Granados recognized the children for their participation, noting his visit to the Elizabeth Boys and Girls Club during the Hairitage Workshop. He noted that he was inspired by their efforts and proud that they comprised the fabric of Union County. He also noted the importance of representation and how these activities highlighted the importance of Black History Month overall.

Commissioner Williams also recognized the children for their participation, noting her visit to the Hairitage Workshop in Rahway alongside her colleague, Commissioner Bodek. She noted that the workshop was very educational and informative, adding that she was pleased to see such wonderful events come out of the County's Black History Month celebration. She thanked Judith Guest of the County's Office of Community Engagement and Diversity for her efforts.

Commissioner Bodek noted his attendance to the Hairitage Workshop in Rahway alongside Commissioner Williams, adding that he found it to be a great learning experience. He also recognized Judith Guest for her efforts.

Chairman Granados called upon Elizabeth Boys and Girls Club Community Director, Lakeish Oates, to say a few words.

Community Director Oates thanked Judith Guest for organizing the workshops, adding that it had been a great experience for the children and she hoped these programs would continue in the future.

APPROVAL OF COMMUNICATIONS

Note and File

Chairman Granados advised that the Communications would be approved later during the Regular Meeting.

OFFICE OF THE UNION COUNTY SURROGATE

Christopher Hudak, County Surrogate

1. Approving the 2023 Union County Surrogate Five Year Spending Plan pursuant to New Jersey Laws of P.L. 2001, Chapter 370, for the use of the Document Trust Fund monies collected into the Union County Surrogate's Trust Account.
(Chairman Sergio Granados)

Commissioner Mirabella commended Surrogate Hudak for being proactive in his new role, noting Surrogate Hudak's leadership, commitment to hard work, and dedication in serving the residents of Union County as compassionately and efficiently as possible. Commissioner Mirabella thanked him on behalf of the Board for his efforts.

2. Authorizing the County Manager to enter into a contract with County Business Systems Inc., Newton, PA, for additional software services and maintenance for the Bluestone E-File Probate Module in the amount not to exceed \$19,500.00. **(Chairman Sergio Granados)**

DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

Laura Scutari, Director

There were no questions or comments by the Board.

1. Authorizing the County Manager to sign any and all documents necessary to enter into a Collective Bargaining Agreement with the Assistant Prosecutor's Association effective January 1, 2021 through December 31, 2023. **(Chairman Sergio Granados)**

DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Amy Crisp Wagner, Deputy County Manager/Director

1. Authorizing the County Manager to apply for and accept funding from the Department of Community Affairs, Division of Local Government Services for the Local Efficiency Achievement Program (LEAP) County Coordinator Fellowship Grant in an amount not to exceed \$75,000.00 to support the County hiring a Shared Services County Coordinator Fellow for a one-year period. **(Chairman Sergio Granados)**

Commissioner Williams asked Deputy County Manager Wagner to elaborate on this item.

Deputy County Manager Wagner advised that this item related to a one-year fellowship position funded through the Shared Services Czars in NJ. She noted that it would allow the County to conduct community-outreach and share ideas and information relative to new potential Shared Services. Deputy County Manager Wagner further advised that the existing Coordinator was responsible for maintaining records for existing shared services as well as coordinating meetings with various municipalities regarding said.

DEPARTMENT OF ENGINEERING, PUBLIC WORKS & FACILITIES MANAGEMENT

Joseph Graziano, Director

1. Authorizing the County Manager to award the proposed contract obtained through advertised public bidding in accordance with the Local Public Contracts Law N.J.S.A. 40A:11-1 et seq., to Shade Environmental, LLC, of Maple Shade, New Jersey for the Union County Courthouse Tower Environmental Remediation, City of Elizabeth, County of Union, New Jersey for an amount not to exceed \$64,200.00. **(Commissioner Bette Jane Kowalski)**
2. Amending Resolution 2016-387, a contract to Dewberry Engineers, Bloomfield, New Jersey to provide additional services for Replacement of East Hazelwood Avenue Bridge, City of Rahway, New Jersey for an additional amount of \$9,520.00 for a new contract amount not to exceed \$265,216.00. **(Commissioner Bette Jane Kowalski)**

3. Authorizing the County Manager to award a contract to Lindenmeyr Munroe, King of Prussia, PA, for the provision of materials for the Union County Print Shop, in an amount not to exceed \$36,999.00. **(Commissioner Bette Jane Kowalski)**
4. Authorizing the County Manager to exercise a twenty-four (24) month option to extend the contract pursuant to Resolution 2021-133 and originally obtained through advertised public bidding (BA # 10-2021) with KONE, Inc., Warren, NJ, for the purpose of Elevator Maintenance & Repair Services at various locations from February 26, 2023 through February 25, 2025 in an amount not to exceed \$515,600.00. **(Commissioner Bette Jane Kowalski)**
5. Granting permission to the Township of Clark to hang a banner on Raritan Road and Walter Drive from April 1, 2023 to April 30, 2023 advertising the "Rock the Block" event on April 30, 2023. **(Commissioner Bette Jane Kowalski)**

Commissioner Garretson asked Director Graziano to elaborate on the event.

County Manager Oatman advised that this item related to a banner hanging for a new downtown street fair/festival in Clark.

6. Granting permission to the Township of Scotch Plains to close a portion of Park Avenue from Westfield Avenue/East 2nd Street to Front Street including Bartle Avenue and Forest Road on Saturday, October 14, 2023 for a Columbus Day Event. **(Commissioner Bette Jane Kowalski)**
7. Granting permission to the Township of Springfield to hang a banner across Mountain Avenue and North Trivett Avenue from March 1, 2023 to March 15, 2023 to remind the public to vote on March 14th on the School Bond Referendum Question. **(Commissioner Bette Jane Kowalski)**
8. Granting permission to the Town of Westfield (Greater Westfield Area Chamber of Commerce) to close E. Broad Street to North Avenue on May 7, 2023 and September 10, 2023 from 6:00 am to 7:00 pm for the Spring Fling Street Fair and the FestiFall Street Fair. **(Commissioner Bette Jane Kowalski)**

DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE

Bibi Taylor, Director

There were no questions or comments by the Board.

1. Amending Resolution 2023-11, a resolution authorizing departmental signatories for Calendar Year 2023. **(Vice Chairwoman Kimberly Palmieri-Mouded)**

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

Debbie-Ann Anderson, Director

1. Amending Resolution 2022-608, approving the 2022-2023 HEARTH Emergency Solutions (HES) Grant Program Spending Plan, to provide a one-time advance payment (one month of award) in the total amount of \$30,737.00 to assist the authorized organizations to carry out program activities, with no other changes to the spending plan or terms of the agreements. **(Chairman Sergio Granados)**

2. Amending Resolution 2022-1061, a contract with Community Access Unlimited, Elizabeth, NJ, for Supportive Services for clients of the American Job Center, to reflect account number changes only; all other terms and conditions of the prior resolutions and contract remain the same. **(Chairman Sergio Granados)**
3. Amending Resolution 2022-1060, a contract with Plainfield Action Services-Mayor's Task Force, Plainfield, NJ, for Supportive Services for clients of the American Job Center, to reflect account number changes only. **(Chairman Sergio Granados)**
4. Amending Resolution Number 2022-322, authorizing the 2023 DMHAS-Youth Leadership Grant Spending Plan, to reflect an extension for a new grant and contract period of July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023 with no other changes to the spending plan or terms of the agreements. **(Commissioner James Baker Jr)**
5. Amending Resolution 2022-323, authorizing the 2023 DMHAS-Youth Leadership Grant application, to reflect a three and a half (3 ½) month extension for a new contract period of July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023; all other terms remain the same. **(Commissioner James Baker Jr)**
6. Amending resolution 2022-734, a contract with The Mount Olive Baptist Church, Plainfield, NJ for the 2023 Code Blue Warming Center Program, to reflect an account number change and to increase funds for the period of January 1, 2023 to March 31, 2023, in an amount not to exceed \$20,000.00 for a new total amount not to exceed \$53,000.00; all other terms and conditions of the prior resolutions and contract remain the same. **(Chairman Sergio Granados)**

Commissioner Mirabella inquired about an increase in funding for the first quarter.

Director Anderson advised that currently, Mount Olive Baptist Church was the only sheltering resource in Plainfield that provided these services to the western portion of Union County. She further advised that the increase was related to the need for additional accommodations, noting that the County had allocated funding for 20 spaces and were now over 40 on Code Blue nights. She added that additional funding would also assist with security on site.

Commissioner Mirabella thanked Director Anderson and her Department as well as Mount Olive Baptist Church for their efforts.

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION

Victoria Durbin-Drake, Director

County Manager Edward T. Oatman represented the Department.

There were no questions or comments by the Board.

1. Authorizing the County Manager to renew the one (1) year residential lease for the caretaker of the County's Watchung Stables. **(Commissioner Rebecca Lynne Williams)**

2. Resolution authorizing the County Manager to renew the one (1) year residential lease for caretaker of the County's Feltville Village. **(Commissioner Rebecca Lynne Williams)**

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

Andrew Moran, Director

1. Authorizing the County Manager to enter into an Intercounty Mutual Aid Assistance Agreement with the State of New Jersey Office of Emergency Management to collaborate efforts in preventing, preparing for, responding to and recovering from domestic incidents for the term expiring December 31, 2032. **(Commissioner James Baker Jr)**

Chairman Granados asked Director Moran to elaborate on this item.

Director Moran advised that this item reflected an intercounty contract to assist with streamlining mutual aid assistance. He noted that the agreement codified procedures, including how to request reimbursements following an incident.

Commissioner Leon inquired about the expiration date cited under the item.

OFFICE OF THE COUNTY COUNSEL

Bruce H. Bergen, County Counsel

1. Amending Resolution Number 2023-18 to confirm a name change from the Law Firm of Renaud & DeAppolonio, LLC to Renaud Colicchio, LLC, Cranford, NJ. **(Chairman Sergio Granados)**
2. Amending Resolution Number 2023-138, entering into contracts with West Publishing Corporation d/b/a West, a Thomson Reuters business, Eagan, MN for the purchase of law books, internet services and materials as is necessary for various departments, constitutional offices and agencies within the County of Union, to increase the total contract amount by \$1,500.00 for expenses and/or purchases by the Union County Surrogate's Office for a new total amount not to exceed \$43,575.00. **(Chairman Sergio Granados)**
3. Amending Resolution Number 2023-139, a contract with Gann Law Books, Newark, NJ for the purchase of law books and materials as is necessary for various departments, constitutional offices and agencies within the County of Union, to increase the total contract amount by \$400.00 for expenses and/or purchases by the Union County Surrogate's Office for a new total amount not to exceed \$56,675.00. **(Chairman Sergio Granados)**

Commissioner Mirabella inquired about the need for hard copies of the cited legal resources.

Counsel Bergen confirmed that most of the research conducted in his Office was done online using electronic resources and materials. He added that for certain publications, it was easier and more convenient to have a physical copy on hand for constant reference.

4. Amending Resolution Number 2023-141, contracts with various vendors for the purchase of law books, legal internet services and materials as is necessary for various departments, constitutional offices and agencies within the County of Union, to increase the total contract amount by \$400.00 for expenses and/or purchases by the Union County Surrogate's Office for a new total amount not to exceed \$18,475.00. **(Chairman Sergio Granados)**

COMMISSIONER SPONSORED RESOLUTIONS

1. Extending the Board's deepest condolences to Linden Councilman Carlos Rivas and Linden Board of Education Member Dayanara Rosado Quezada on the tragic passing of their 10-year old son, Ariel Rivas Rosado. **(Commissioner Joseph C Bodek, & The Entire Board)**
2. Recognizing the Friends of St. Patrick of Union County for all of their efforts in in supporting local worthy charitable organizations as they promote Irish heritage throughout Union County, and further congratulating the following honorees of their Annual Irish Heritage Tribute Dinner held on March 9, 2023: Patrick Giblin, 2023 Irishman of the Year/William A. Boyle, Sr. Award; Jimmy Russo, Military Service Award; Ben Bolger, Education Award; Brian Costello, Union County Business Award; Tony "TV Tony" Brennan, Public Service Award. **(Commissioner Joseph C Bodek, & The Entire Board)**
3. Appointing Kevin Illing to the Union County Planning Board as Alternate #2 to an unexpired term beginning on January 1, 2022 and ending on December 31, 2024. **(Commissioner Angela R. Garretson)**
4. Extending the Board's deepest condolences to the family of Raymond Salters during their time of sorrow. **(Commissioner Angela R. Garretson, & The Entire Board)**
5. Extending the Board's deepest condolences to the family of Evelyn Gillon during their time of sorrow. **(Commissioner Angela R. Garretson, & The Entire Board)**
6. Extending the Board's deepest condolences to the family of Rev. Dr. Lloyd Preston Terrell during their time of sorrow. **(Commissioner Angela R. Garretson, & The Entire Board)**
7. Sponsoring the Union County Saint Patrick's Day Parade Committee in an amount not to exceed \$4,000.00 in support of their St. Patrick's Day Parade to be held on March 11, 2023. **(Vice Chairwoman Kimberly Palmieri-Mouded, & The Entire Board)**
8. Sponsoring the Cuban Club of Elizabeth in the amount not to exceed \$4,000.00 in support of their Cuban Parade to be held on May 21, 2023. **(Vice Chairwoman Kimberly Palmieri-Mouded, & The Entire Board)**
9. Supporting the City of Rahway's following events in the total amount not to exceed \$10,000.00: Munch Madness (March 25th), Independence Day Fireworks (July 3rd), ArtsFest (September 23rd), Halloween Spooktacular (Oct 28th), & Holiday Tree Lighting and Santa Parade (November 24th). **(Vice Chairwoman Kimberly Palmieri-Mouded, & The Entire Board)**

10. Authorizing a 2023 County Initiative to help offset the costs of housing maintenance, utilities and basic needs for eligible Seniors and Veterans adversely impacted by COVID-19 within the County of Union by providing direct financial assistance utilizing American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds in a total amount not to exceed \$812,500.00. **(Chairman Sergio Granados)**
11. Resolution re-appointing the following members to the Human Services Advisory Council (HSAC): Debbie-Ann Anderson (County Designee), Tanisha Hansford-Colon (Legal Aide), Catherine Hart (Housing Authority - Elizabeth), Linda Flores-Tober (Consumer Advocate), Juanita Vargas (Volunteer Sector) for three-year terms beginning on January 1, 2023 through December 31, 2025; and appointing the following new members: Priscilla Garces (Advisory Bd on the Disabled), Karen Geer (Domestic Violence), Bernadette Murphy (Consumer Advocate), Geleen Donovan (Family & Children Services) and Robert Croom (Labor) for three-year terms beginning on January 1, 2023 through December 31, 2025; and appointing Peter Jacob (Comm at Large) to fill an unexpired term ending on December 31, 2024. **(Chairman Sergio Granados)**
12. Congratulating the following Boys & Girls Club 2023 Youth of the Year award recipients being honored on March 2, 2023: Toni Young-Lewis, Lucas Pina, Christopher Silva (Buddie fo the Year Plaque); Aiden Francis, Deizytra Roberts, Serenity Maldonado (Junior of the Year Plaque), Ariyan Wing, Liyah Philippe-Francis Shawn'Yae Myers, Coby Smith (Youth of the Year Merit Award). **(Chairman Sergio Granados, & The Entire Board)**
13. Congratulating Elizabeth High School student athlete Vivian Luna upon winning her second consecutive Union County Girls Bowling Individual Championship. **(Chairman Sergio Granados, & The Entire Board)**
14. Congratulating the Union County St. Patrick's Day Committee upon its 26th Annual Union County St. Patrick's Day Parade taking place on March, 11, 2023; and further congratulating New Jersey State Senator Joseph P. Cryan (Grand Marshal); Gabrielle N. Sullivan (Adjutant) and Michael Capko (General Chairman). **(Chairman Sergio Granados, & The Entire Board)**
15. Congratulating the following honorees of the 2023 Italian American Police Society of New Jersey Annual Gala Benefit Dinner Dance at the Fiesta Banquets on Saturday March 25th, 2023: Dr. James V. Guarrera, Brandee Fetherman, Sheriff Peter Corvelli and the Landy Family. **(Chairman Sergio Granados, & The Entire Board)**
16. Re-appointing Edward Jackus, (Commissioner) to the Union County Utilities Authority for a term beginning February 1, 2023 and ending January 31, 2028. **(Chairman Sergio Granados)**

ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Granados asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. On a motion made by Commissioner Mirabella and seconded by Vice-Chairwoman Palmieri-Mouded a voice vote showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative, with Commissioner Baker absent.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:23 P.M.

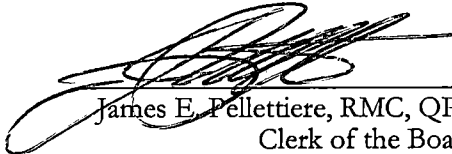
UNION COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
2023 MEETING SCHEDULE
REORGANIZATION MEETING - THURSDAY, JANUARY 3, 2023 at 6:00 pm
Union County Courthouse- 2 Broad Street. Elizabeth

AGENDA SETTING SESSION

January 26, 2023
February 9, 2023
February 23, 2023
March 16, 2023
March 30, 2023
April 13, 2023
April 27, 2023
May 11, 2023
May 25, 2023
June 8, 2023
June 22, 2023
July 13, 2023
August 17, 2023
September 7, 2023
September 21, 2023
October 12, 2023
October 26, 2023
November 9, 2023
December 7, 2023
December 21, 2023

REGULAR MEETINGS

January 26, 2023
February 9, 2023
February 23, 2023
March 16, 2023
March 30, 2023
April 13, 2023
April 27, 2023
May 11, 2023
May 25, 2023
June 8, 2023
June 22, 2023
July 13, 2023
August 17, 2023
September 7, 2023
September 21, 2023
October 12, 2023
October 26, 2023
November 9, 2023
December 7, 2023
December 21, 2023


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

Please note that the County Commissioners' meetings are to be regularly held on Thursday evenings and are scheduled to be held on the same evening, with the Agenda Setting Session to commence at 6:00pm and the Regular Meeting to commence as soon as possible after the Agenda Setting Session, unless otherwise noted.

All meetings are to be held in the Commissioner Meeting Room within the Administration Building, 6th floor located at 10 Elizabethtown Plaza, Elizabeth New Jersey, 07207.

Due to the Covid-19 coronavirus concerns, County Commissioner meetings may be held remotely via Zoom webinar under the procedures conducted, as published, in 2021. If said procedures are deemed necessary, the Clerk of the Board will revise this Public Notice according to law.

Persons requiring a sign language interpreter should contact the Office of the Clerk of the Board at 908-527-4140.