

UNION COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 09, 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 James E. Baker, Jr, Commissioner Joseph C. Bodek, Commissioner Bette Jane Kowalski, Commissioner Lourdes M. Leon, Commissioner Alexander Mirabella, and Commissioner Rebecca Williams were present, with Commissioner Angela R. Garretson 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.

APPROVAL OF COMMUNICATIONS

Note and File

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. August 17, 2023 - Agenda Setting Session
2. August 17, 2023 - Regular Meeting
3. September 7, 2023 - Agenda Setting Session
4. September 7, 2023 - Regular Meeting
5. September 21, 2023 - Agenda Setting Session
6. September 21, 2023 - Regular Meeting

Chairman Granados called upon Prosecutor Daniel to elaborate on the law enforcement initiative Arrive Together in Union County.

Joined by County Manager Oatman, Commissioner Chairman Granados, and NJ Attorney General Matthew Platkin, Prosecutor Daniel spoke relative to a press conference he attended earlier to announce the county-wide roll-out of the law-enforcement mental-health initiative Arrive Together. Originally introduced in June of 2022 by NJ Attorney General

Platkin, he noted that this resource would provide an alternative to how law enforcement responds to emergency mental health crisis calls as a means to reduce instances of violence and escalation. He noted that since its implementation in June of 2022, there had been approximately 427 encounters in Union County, none of which resulted in complaints of excessive force. He noted that under the Arrive Together initiative, law-enforcement officials in plain clothing and unmarked vehicles would be accompanied by a mental health screener from Trinitas Hospital to provide comprehensive care and resources to individuals in crisis. He noted that all law enforcement agencies in Union County, including the Union County Sheriff, Prosecutor and County Police would be participating. He advised that this program was shown to lead to better outcomes between law enforcement officials and residents in crisis, adding that many of these individuals sought treatment after such encounters. He thanked the State, County Manager Oatman, and the Board for their support in these efforts. He also thanked the residents of Union County for warmly welcoming law enforcement into their communities. He noted that this program marked a milestone for law enforcement and mental health providers, adding that he was proud to have such an important initiative implemented in Union County and looked forward to more public safety projects of this kind.

Chairman Granados thanked Prosecutor Daniel and the various law enforcement agencies throughout Union County for their efforts in coordinating the roll-out of this program. He added that in addition to having all 21 municipalities participating, Union County would be the first County to have an educational facility devoted to this program at Kean University.

County Manager Oatman noted that it was nice to welcome back former Union County Acting Prosecutor, Lyndsay Ruotolo, who now serves as NJ's First Assistant Attorney General, to Union County for the announcement of the Arrive Together initiative at Kean University earlier that day.

Commissioner Kowalski congratulated Prosecutor Daniel on the success of the Arrive Together initiative. She inquired about future improvements and expansions of the program.

Prosecutor Daniel noted the prospect of a co-responder model, including a non-law enforcement response team. He added that he anticipated this program to continue expanding in the future.

Chairman Granados noted discussions of including a telehealth component for callers in crisis.

Commissioner Baker asked if all the 427 encounters had occurred in the City of Elizabeth and Linden.

Prosecutor Daniel advised that these 427 encounters had occurred countywide.

DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

Laura Scutari, Director

There were no questions or comments by the Board.

1. Authorizing the County Manager to execute a settlement resolving salary guide placement and salary guide movement for officers graduating from the Police Academy in July 2020, January 2021 and July 2022 in the sum not to exceed \$67,241.24. **(Chairman Sergio Granados)**
2. 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, 2024 through December 31, 2025. **(Chairman Sergio Granados)**

DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Amy Crisp Wagner, Deputy County Manager/Director

There were no questions or comments by the Board.

1. Amending Resolution 2023-737, a contract with Comcast Cable Company dba Comcast Business, to increase by the amount of \$1,275.46 for the last billing period of December 15, 2023 through January 14, 2024 for a new total contract amount not to exceed \$33,403.56. **(Chairman Sergio Granados)**
2. Amending Resolution 2023-276 to increase CDBG funding to utilize Plainfield Program Income funds to cover the cost of additional Community Development administration costs in the CDBG program project for the City of Plainfield's Office of Community Development in the amount of \$8,200.00 from \$121,000.00 to \$129,200.00. **(Chairman Sergio Granados)**

DEPARTMENT OF ENGINEERING, PUBLIC WORKS & FACILITIES MANAGEMENT

Joseph Policay, Acting Director

1. Approving a pre-qualified list of firms for the provision of General Engineering Services for the period of January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2024. **(Commissioner Bette Jane Kowalski)**
2. Approving a pre-qualified list of firms for the provision of Architectural Services for the period of January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2024. **(Commissioner Bette Jane Kowalski)**
3. Approving a pre-qualified list of firms for the provision of Construction Management Services for the period of January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2024. **(Commissioner Bette Jane Kowalski)**
4. Approving a pre-qualified list of firms for the provision of Planning Services for the period of January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2024. **(Commissioner Bette Jane Kowalski)**
5. Authorizing the County Manager to exercise the twenty-four (24) month option to extend the contract pursuant to Resolution 2021-788, originally obtained through advertised public bidding (B.A. # 47-2021) with Paul's Electronic Maintenance, Inc. dba SBP Industries, South Plainfield, NJ, for the purpose of Emergency Generator Repairs, Maintenance, and Installation Services at various locations for the period of

November 24, 2023 through November 23, 2025 in an amount not to exceed \$123,600.00. **(Commissioner Bette Jane Kowalski)**

6. Authorizing the County Manager to extend the contract obtained through advertised public bidding in accordance with the Local Public Contracts Law, NJSA 40A:11-1 et seq with DCRS Deer Carcass Removal Service LLC, Cream Ridge, New Jersey for the purpose of road sweeping removal services for the Department of Engineering, Public Works & Facilities Management for an additional twelve (12) months in an amount not to exceed \$195,000.00. **(Commissioner Bette Jane Kowalski)**

Commissioner Mirabella recognized the efforts of Acting Director Policay and Ray Sponz relative to deer mitigation and removal services.

7. Authorizing the County Manager to award the proposed contracts obtained through advertised public bidding in accordance with the Local Public Contracts Law, NJSA 40A:11-1 et seq: Department of Engineering, Public Works and Facilities Management - Supplying of Snow Plow Equipment and Parts and Accessories - Henderson Products Inc., Lot 3, \$38,250.00; Trius, Inc., Lot 6, \$23,750.00; and John Guire Supply LLC, Lot 2, \$22,200.00 for a period of 24 consecutive months in the amount not to exceed \$84,200.00. (BA#34-2023) **(Commissioner Bette Jane Kowalski)**

Commissioner Baker asked Acting Director Policay to elaborate on this item.

Acting Director Policay advised that this item related to snow plow equipment, parts and accessories, noting several items that are often changed and or replaced with heavy use.

8. Authorizing the County Manager to enter into a contract with Cliffside Body Corp. of Fairview, NJ to purchase six (6) truck bodies (15FT) and six (6) truck bodies (11FT) for snow plow and spreader parts through NJ State Contract (88268) in the amount not to exceed \$1,953,029.22. **(Commissioner Bette Jane Kowalski)**

Commissioner Baker asked Acting Director Policay to elaborate on this item.

Acting Director Policay explained that the truck bodies would be married to the cab and chassis noted in Item No. 9.

9. Authorizing the County Manager to enter into a contract with At Northern NJ LLC, Linden, NJ to purchase 13 Navistar Cab & Chassis trucks through ESCNJ #65MCESCCPS 23/24-04 in the amount not to exceed \$1,779,570.94. **(Commissioner Bette Jane Kowalski)**
10. Granting permission to the City of Linden to close Wood Avenue from Elizabeth Avenue and Elm Street on December 1, 2023 from 4:00 pm to 10:00 pm to host its Annual Holiday Tree Lighting. **(Commissioner Bette Jane Kowalski)**

DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE

Bibi Taylor, Director

There were no questions or comments by the Board.

1. Approving Transfer of Current Fund Appropriations. **(Vice Chairwoman Kimberly Palmieri-Mouded)**
2. Modifying the 2023 Union County adopted budget in the amount of \$191,248.00 as a result of notification received from the State of New Jersey, Department of Community Affairs for a program entitled: New Jersey Historic Trust Grant - Feltville Historic District. **(Vice Chairwoman Kimberly Palmieri-Mouded)**
3. Amending Resolution Number 2023-9 designating petty cash custodians. **(Vice Chairwoman Kimberly Palmieri-Mouded)**
4. Authorizing the County Manager to enter into a contract with Pino Consulting Group, Toms River, New Jersey, for the purpose of providing consulting services for preparation of the Central Service Cost Allocation Plan and Medicare and Medicaid Cost Reports for Cornerstone Behavioral Health Hospital of Union County for the contract period January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2025 in the total amount of not to exceed \$206,000.00. **(Vice Chairwoman Kimberly Palmieri-Mouded)**
5. Authorizing the County Manager to enter into contract with Primepoint LLC, Mt. Holly, New Jersey to provide Payroll services and Time and Labor Management Services for the Cornerstone Behavioral Hospital of Union County staff, from December 1, 2023 to November 30, 2024 for an amount not to exceed \$189,600.00. **(Vice Chairwoman Kimberly Palmieri-Mouded)**

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

Debbie-Ann Anderson, Director

1. Authorizing the County Manager to enter into a lease agreement between the County of Union and Columbian Club 253 Knights of Columbus, Elizabeth, NJ, for the rental of 30 parking spaces at \$80.00 per parking space per month for the period of January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2024 in an amount not to exceed \$2,400.00 per month for a total annual amount not to exceed \$28,800.00. **(Chairman Sergio Granados)**
2. Authorizing the County Manager to award subcontracts under the Union County Family Success Center (FSC) Spending Plan for the period of January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2024 in a total amount not to exceed \$246,000.00; and authorizing the County Manager to transfer funds among the agencies listed during the contract period should service needs change. **(Chairman Sergio Granados)**

Chairman Granados asked Director Anderson to elaborate on this item.

Director Anderson advised that this item would fund various services aimed at assisting and strengthening families. She noted that resources would include rental assistance, financial literacy, substance abuse referrals as well as other services to meet the challenges of families in Union County. She added that over 2,000 families have been assisted by this resource.

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION

Victoria Durbin-Drake, Director

There were no questions or comments by the Board.

1. Authorizing the County Manager to execute a grant agreement with the New Jersey Historic Trust, State of New Jersey in an amount not to exceed \$191,248.00 for the Deserted Village of Feltville/Feltville Historic District House #4 project. **(Commissioner Bette Jane Kowalski)**
2. Authorizing the County Manager to enter into a contract with PS&S, Warren, New Jersey to provide engineering and architectural services for the improvements at the Galloping Hill Golf Course Driving Range in an amount not to exceed \$61,500.00. **(Commissioner Rebecca Lynne Williams)**

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

Dennis Burke, Acting Director

Chairman Granados thanked Acting Director Burke for his efforts related to the Arrive Together initiative.

1. Authorizing the County Manager to approve an annual uniform/clothing allowance for the Union County Fire Mutual Aid Coordinator and Deputy Coordinators in an amount not to exceed \$14,000.00. **(Commissioner James Baker Jr)**
2. Amending Resolution Number 2023-747, pursuant to advertised public bidding (BA# 23-2021) in accordance with the Local Public Contracts Law, N.J.S.A. 40A:11-1 et seq., with Johnston Communication, Springfield, NJ, for the provision of providing electronic network equipment, security and cabling for various County Departments, to reflect an increase to the contract in the amount of \$1,378.68 for a new total amount not to exceed \$393,315.89 **(Commissioner James Baker Jr)**

OFFICE OF THE COUNTY COUNSEL

Bruce H. Bergen, County Counsel

There were no questions or comments by the Board.

1. Authorizing the County Manager to execute a Settlement Agreement in the matter entitled Emmanuel Mervilus v. County of Union, et al., in the amount not to exceed \$3,200,000.00 of which the amount of \$874,473.09 shall be paid by the County of Union and the remaining balance of \$2,325,526.91 shall be paid by Fortitude RE Insurance Company. **(Chairman Sergio Granados)**
2. Amending Resolution Number 2023-328, a contract to Kingston Coventry, LLC of Parsippany-Troy Hills, NJ for General Counsel and potential litigation services to the County of Union, to reflect an additional amount not to exceed \$30,000.00 for a new contract amount not to exceed \$105,000.00. **(Chairman Sergio Granados)**

COMMISSIONER SPONSORED RESOLUTIONS

1. Thanking the VFW Kenilworth Post 2230 and VFW Officer, Commander Robert Jeans, for their generosity and hospitality in hosting a recent Suicide Awareness Seminar, presented by the Office of Veteran's Services, aimed at increasing

- awareness about critical community resources available to Veterans and their families. **(Commissioner Alexander Mirabella, & The Entire Board)**
2. Supporting Operation Green Light on November 6th - November 12, 2023, in honor of our Veterans and to bring awareness to the unique challenges they face. **(Commissioner Alexander Mirabella, & The Entire Board)**
 3. Congratulating Alma I. Watkins on celebrating her 80th birthday on November 1, 2023. **(Commissioner Rebecca Lynne Williams, & The Entire Board)**
 4. Offering this Board's deepest sympathies to the family of beloved Plainfield School educator, Paul Pannone, during their time of sorrow. **(Commissioner Rebecca Lynne Williams, & The Entire Board)**
 5. Sponsoring the Borough of Roselle Park's Tree Lighting Ceremony and Winter Market being held on December 1, 2023 through December 3, 2023 in an amount not to exceed \$1,500. **(Vice Chairwoman Kimberly Palmieri-Mouded, & The Entire Board)**
 6. Proclaiming November 17, 2023 as Adoption Day throughout the County of Union. **(Chairman Sergio Granados, & The Entire Board)**
 7. Re-appointing Richard Capac to the Workforce Development Board for a term beginning July 1, 2023 and ending June 30, 2026. **(Chairman Sergio Granados)**
 8. Announcing UC LOVES SMALL BIZ initiative aimed at celebrating and encouraging residents and visitors to patronize Union County businesses, to shop and dine local from November 24, 2023 through December 24, 2023. **(Chairman Sergio Granados, & The Entire Board)**

ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Granados asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. On a motion made by Commissioner Mirabella and seconded by Commissioner Kowalski roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative, with Commissioner Garretson absent.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:19 P.M.

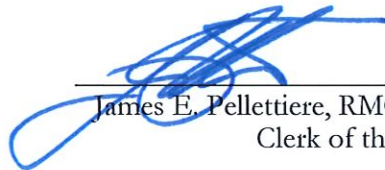
UNION COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
2023 MEETING SCHEDULE
REORGANIZATION MEETING - THURSDAY, JANUARY 3, 2023 at 6:00 pm
Union County Courthouse- 2 Broad Street. Elizabeth

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.