



UNION COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2024
AGENDA SETTING MEETING MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

Chairwoman Palmieri-Mouded presided over the meeting and called the meeting to order at 6:05 P.M.

ROLL CALL

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

Chairwoman Palmieri-Mouded advised that the Communications would be approved later during the Regular Meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Thursday, January 4, 2024 - Installation Ceremony and Reorganization Meeting
2. Thursday, January 25, 2024 - Agenda Setting Session
3. Thursday, January 25, 2024 - Regular Meeting

Chairwoman Palmieri-Mouded advised that the January Minutes would be approved later during the Regular Meeting.

OFFICE OF THE UNION COUNTY PROSECUTORWilliam A. Daniel, County Prosecutor

There was no question or comments by the Board.

1. Authorizing the County Manager to enter into an Agreement with Trinitas Regional Medical Center, Child and Adolescent Outpatient Unit, Department of Psychiatry for licensed clinician / therapist services for the period of March 1, 2024 through June 30, 2024 in an amount not to exceed \$13,500. **(Chairwoman Kimberly Palmieri-Mouded)**

OFFICE OF THE UNION COUNTY SHERIFFPeter Corvelli, Sheriff

1. Authorizing the County Manager to exercise the option to renew the shared service agreement with Essex County, Newark, NJ for the purpose of housing Union County Juveniles, at the sole discretion of the Criminal Courts of the State of New Jersey, for a term of five (5) years for a contract period of February 1, 2024 through January 31, 2029 in an amount not to exceed \$10,000,000. **(Commissioner James Baker Jr)**

Commissioner Mirabella asked Sheriff Corvelli to elaborate on the contract.

Sheriff Corvelli advised that this shared service agreement with Essex County was being renewed for an additional five years, noting no increase for the first year and a 2% annual increase for the four remaining years of the contract.

County Manager Oatman added that this was a 5-year extension option under the original contract, noting that the annual 2% increase had been part of the original negotiations. He advised that closing the juvenile detention center would save the County approximately \$7,000,000.00 annually.

County Manager Oatman noted the repurposing of the former juvenile detention center to house the County's fire academy, printshop and other satellite offices.

Commissioner Mirabella thanked County Manager Oatman for his leadership to this end.

2. Authorizing the County Manager to enter into a contract with The Keefe Group, Edison, NJ to provide the necessary services to the Inmate Trust Fund Accounting System for the Union County Correctional Hub for a five-year period commencing on January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2028 in the amount not to exceed \$24,739.00 for the first year and \$13,284.00 for each additional year, for a total amount not to exceed \$77,875.00, with one option to extend the contract for an additional five (5) year period. **(Commissioner James Baker Jr)**
3. Authorizing the County Manager to enter into a contract with CFG Health Systems LLC, Marlton, New Jersey for the provision of comprehensive institutional healthcare services for incarcerated adults at the Union County Correctional Hub for the contract period of January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2024 in an amount not to exceed \$1,962,054.00. **(Commissioner James Baker Jr)**

4. Authorizing the County Manager to participate in the Defense Logistics Agency, Law Enforcement Support Office (LESO) 1033 Program to enable Union County Sheriff's Office to request and acquire excess Department of Defense Equipment for the period of January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2024. **(Commissioner James Baker Jr)**

DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Amy Crisp Wagner, Deputy County Manager/Director

1. Authorizing the County Manager to accept and expend the NJ DCA FY23 Shared Library Services Grant Program funding to assist local public libraries in joining a consortium by covering initial migration costs in an amount not to exceed \$220,797.37. **(Commissioner Bette Jane Kowalski)**

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

Deputy County Manager Wagner advised that this item related to a State Grant that would allow local libraries to digitize their literature and share their collections across the consortium, noting access to approximately three million pieces of literature. She further advised that this item would provide funding to the nine towns that opted to participate in the consortium, adding that several towns had joined previously, with two opting out. She thanked Commissioner Kowalski for her efforts related to this grant.

Commissioner Kowalski recognized Deputy County Manager Wagner for her efforts and thanked NJ Senate President Scutari and the State legislators for their support relative to this expansion.

2. Authorizing the County Manager to apply for and to enter into an agreement with the NJ Department of Community Affairs (NJ DCA) to secure grant funding from the FY24 Shared Library Services Grant, in an amount not to exceed \$250,000.00. **(Commissioner Bette Jane Kowalski)**

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

Deputy County Manager Wagner advised that this item would allow the Department to apply for and accept funding to continue the process, adding that the two aforementioned towns could opt to join the consortium with this funding as well. She added that funds would also be used to pay ongoing member fees for those towns participating in the consortium.

Commissioner Baker inquired about migration costs.

Deputy County Manager Wagner advised that migration costs included digitization of existing literature to share across the consortium

3. Authorizing the County Manager to execute a grant agreement term extension regarding the FY 2023 Local Efficiency Achievement Program (LEAP) Union County Emergency Services Regional Dispatch Center Implementation Grant through May 31, 2025. **(Commissioner Sergio Granados)**

4. Authorizing the County Manager to execute a grant agreement term extension regarding the FY 2023 Plainfield Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Local Efficiency Achievement Program (LEAP) Implementation Grant through April 30, 2025. **(Commissioner Sergio Granados)**
5. Amending Resolution 2020-479 to include part of Home Funds and to exercise and expend funds in the total amount not to exceed \$723,528.86 for the Passaic Affordable Housing Coalition, Inc. for the project known as 211 South Avenue East, Westfield, NJ Project. **(Chairwoman Kimberly Palmieri-Mouded)**
6. Concurring with Resolution No. 2024-04 of the of the Union County Workforce Development Board to enter into a contract with Weber Dowd Law, LLC, Woodland Park, NJ, for professional legal services for a one-year period beginning January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2024 in the total amount not to exceed \$20,000.00. **(Chairwoman Kimberly Palmieri-Mouded)**
7. Concurring with Resolution No. 2024-05 of the Union County Workforce Development Board, to enter into a contract with FutureWork Systems for the FutureWorks BI service in an amount not to exceed \$12,971.00. **(Chairwoman Kimberly Palmieri-Mouded)**
8. Concurring with Resolution No. 2024-06 of the Union County Workforce Development Board, to enter into a contract with the Garden State Employment and Training Association for Professional Development services in an amount not to exceed \$38,991.61. **(Chairwoman Kimberly Palmieri-Mouded)**

DEPARTMENT OF ENGINEERING, PUBLIC WORKS & FACILITIES MANAGEMENT

Ricardo S. Matias, P.E., County Engineer

There was no question or comments by the Board.

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 Halecon, Inc. of Bridgewater, New Jersey for the John H. Stamler Police Academy Running Track, Township of Scotch Plains, County of Union, New Jersey for an amount not to exceed \$80,467.00. **(Commissioner Joseph C Bodek)**
2. Amending Resolution 2022-832, a contract to Dewberry Engineers Inc., Bloomfield, New Jersey, for improvements to the West 7th Street Intersection, City of Plainfield, to reflect a change in account number only. **(Commissioner Joseph C Bodek)**
3. Requesting the contract amendment to Federal Aid Cost Reimbursement Agreement 2021-DT-BLA-201, East Front Street Intersection Improvements, with New Jersey Department of Transportation to reflect the extension of the project completion date from March 13, 2024 to March 13, 2025. **(Commissioner Joseph C Bodek)**
4. Authorizing the County Manager to enter into a contract with CME Associates, Monmouth Junction, New Jersey to provide On-Call Environmental Engineering Services commencing January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2024 in an amount not to exceed \$250,000.00. **(Commissioner Joseph C Bodek)**

5. Authorizing the County Manager to award a contract to CME Associates, Monmouth Junction, New Jersey to provide a design study for upgrades and improvements to 921 Elizabeth Ave., Elizabeth, NJ in an amount not to exceed \$100,000.00. **(Commissioner Joseph C Bodek)**
6. Authorizing the Township of Springfield/Springfield First Aid Squad to hang a banner across Mountain Avenue from April 11, 2024 to May 28, 2024 to advertise EMS Week from May 19, 2024 to May 25, 2024. **(Commissioner Joseph C Bodek)**
7. Authorizing the County Manager to enter into a contract with Radiac Research Corp., d/b/a Radiac Environmental Services, Brooklyn, NY, for the purpose of providing four (4) Union County household hazardous waste program events for 2024 in an amount not to exceed \$175,801.90. (No cost to the County.) **(Commissioner Joseph C Bodek)**

DEPARTMENT OF FINANCEBibi Taylor, Director

1. Amending the 2024 Temporary Budget Ch. 96 P.L. 1951 (N.J.S.A. 40A:4-20). **(Commissioner Rebecca Lynne Williams)**
2. Approving a list of pre-qualified financial advisors for the Year 2024. **(Commissioner Rebecca Lynne Williams)**
3. Authorizing the County Manager to enter into a contract with Lerch, Vinci & Bliss LLP, Fair Lawn, NJ, to provide financial advisory services in connection with special projects for the period of January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2024 in the amount not to exceed \$50,000.00. **(Commissioner Rebecca Lynne Williams)**
4. Approving positions subject to enrollment in the Defined Contribution Retirement Program. **(Commissioner Rebecca Lynne Williams)**

Commissioner Mirabella asked Director Taylor to elaborate on this item.

Director Taylor advised that the State of NJ required an updated list of existing County positions that were enrolled in DCRP, adding that DCRP positions were those that did not qualify under PERS and or PFRS. She further advised that these positions, noting Departmental Directors and Division Directors, were similar in appointment to gubernatorial appointments, adding that these positions would be enumerated by Resolution and subsequently submitted to the State.

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICESDebbie-Ann Anderson, Director

There was no question or comments by the Board.

1. Authorizing the County Manager to award subcontracts as listed on the Union County Youth Services Commission Spending Plan to provide program services based on the Juvenile Justice Commission Points of Continuum: Prevention, Diversion, Detention, Disposition and Reentry in the total amount not to exceed

\$557,125.15 for the contract period of January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2024.
(Vice-Chairwoman Lourdes M. Leon)

2. Amending Resolution 2023-741, a contract with the Urban League of Union County, Elizabeth, NJ for the provision of financial literacy services, to extend the contract for a period of three (3) months from January 1, 2024 through March 31, 2024.
(Commissioner Sergio Granados)

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION

Victoria Durbin-Drake, Director

1. Authorizing the County Manager to enter into a contract with Harmony Tree Care LLC, Bernardsville NJ through Somerset County State Approved CO-OP (CC-0081-23) for Tree Removal & Trimming in an amount not to exceed \$1,000,000.00. **(Vice-Chairwoman Lourdes M. Leon)**

Chairwoman Palmieri-Mouded asked Director Durbin-Drake to elaborate on this item.

Director Durbin-Drake advised that the Department was in the process of addressing the removal of dead trees throughout the County of Union. She noted that this vendor had been secured through a State Approved CO-OP, adding that the contract was for a not-to-exceed amount and would be used as needed.

2. 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; Parks & Recreation: CMS Construction, Inc., Plainfield, NJ for the purpose of providing Nomahegan Pedestrian Bridge Replacement, in an amount not to exceed \$682,550.00. **(Vice-Chairwoman Lourdes M. Leon)**
3. Amending Resolution 2023-566 authorizing the County Manager to execute a License Agreement with the Bergen Rockland Eruv Association, LLC, Monsey, NY, allowing additional Eruv Wiring in the Rahway River Park System in Clark and Rahway, NJ. **(Vice-Chairwoman Lourdes M. Leon)**
4. Authorizing the County Manager to award a contract obtained through advertised public bidding in accordance with the Local Public Contracts Law, NJSA 40A:11-1 et seq; Parks & Recreation: Hewson Landscape Inc., Plainfield, NJ, for the purpose of providing Lawn Maintenance Service, for the contract period of 24 consecutive months, in an amount not to exceed \$98,222.30, with an option to extend for an additional 24 consecutive months. **(Vice-Chairwoman Lourdes M. Leon)**
5. Authorizing the County Manager to designate the Office of Cultural and Heritage Affairs as the Official County Cultural and Heritage Agency. **(Commissioner Bette Jane Kowalski)**
6. Authorizing the County Manager to enter into a contract with the Union County Performing Arts Center, Rahway, NJ, for the purpose of talent acquisition, booking and day of facilitation for the 2024 Union County Summer Concert Series, 2024 Rhythm and Blues by the Brook Concert, and the 2024 Fall Concert, for a contract period ending December 31, 2024 in an amount not to exceed \$319,600.00. **(Vice-Chairwoman Lourdes M. Leon)**

OFFICE OF THE COUNTY COUNSELBruce H. Bergen, County Counsel

There was no question or comments by the Board.

1. Amending Resolution 2023-531, a contract with Cleary Giacobbe Alfieri & Jacobs LLC in the matter entitled Beverley Figueroa v. UC, et al, to reflect an increase to the contract in an amount not to exceed \$10,000.00 for a total contract amount not to exceed \$25,000.00. **(Chairwoman Kimberly Palmieri-Mouded)**
2. Authorizing the County Manager to appoint the Law Firm of Cleary, Giacobbe, Alfieri & Jacobs, LLC, Oakland, NJ, to represent the County of Union, as special counsel concerning investigation and negotiation of arrangements for Cornerstone Behavioral Health Hospital of Union County, in an amount not to exceed \$25,000.00. **(Chairwoman Kimberly Palmieri-Mouded)**

COMMISSIONER SPONSORED RESOLUTIONS2024 Board of County Commissioners, Chairwoman Kimberly Palmieri-Mouded

OFFICE OF THE CLERK OF THE BOARDJames Pelletiere, Clerk of the Board

There was no question or comments by the Board.

1. Sponsoring Supreme Strategies, a non-profit organization, in the amount \$500.00 in support of their Easter Egg Hunt to be held in the Township of Hillside on March 30, 2024. **(Commissioner Rebecca Lynne Williams, & The Entire Board)**
2. Sponsoring the Borough of Roselle Park in an amount not to exceed \$500.00 in support of their Annual Festival of India on October 5th, 2024. **(Commissioner Rebecca Lynne Williams, & The Entire Board)**
3. Sponsoring the City of Rahway in an amount not to exceed \$8,000.00 in support of their Celebrations taking place throughout the year. **(Commissioner Rebecca Lynne Williams, & The Entire Board)**
4. Sponsoring the Township of Cranford in an amount not to exceed \$4,000.00 in support of their Independence Day Celebration on July 2, 2024. **(Commissioner Rebecca Lynne Williams, & The Entire Board)**
5. Sponsoring the City of Plainfield in an amount not to exceed \$4,000.00 in support of their Independence Day Celebration on July 4, 2024. **(Commissioner Rebecca Lynne Williams, & The Entire Board)**
6. Sponsoring P.A.C.E. with \$2, 500.00 in support of their Young Men of Distinction Conference to be held on February 24, 2024. **(Commissioner Rebecca Lynne Williams, & The Entire Board)**
7. Appointing Amy Crisp-Wagner to serve as a member of the Commission on the Status of Women to a two-year term, expiring December 31, 2025. **(Chairwoman Kimberly Palmieri-Mouded)**

8. Appointing the following members to the Industrial Pollution Control Financing Authority of Union County: Amy Crisp-Wagner; Bruce H. Bergen; James E. Pelletiere; Samantha Perez; and Nancy Malta. **(Chairwoman Kimberly Palmieri-Mouded)**

LAUDATORY RESOLUTIONS AND RESOLUTIONS OF CONDOLENCE

1. Recognizing and congratulating the Portuguese Instructive Social Club on its 102nd Anniversary Celebration. **(Commissioner Sergio Granados, & The Entire Board)**
2. Recognizing Resolve Community Counseling Center, Inc. in Scotch Plains as they celebrate 50 years of service providing affordable, confidential mental health counseling, advocacy and educational programs for children, adolescents and adults in Union County. **(Commissioner Alexander Mirabella, & The Entire Board)**
3. Congratulating Kristian Cortizo on being named the new Head Baseball Coach of the Elizabeth Minutemen. **(Vice-Chairwoman Lourdes M. Leon, & The Entire Board)**
4. Congratulating the Elizabeth High School Girls Basketball Team upon winning the Union County Girls Basketball Tournament. **(Vice-Chairwoman Lourdes M. Leon, & The Entire Board)**
5. Congratulating Crane's Ford Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution upon celebrating its 80th Anniversary on March 9, 2024. **(Chairwoman Kimberly Palmieri-Mouded, & The Entire Board)**

ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting was adjourned at 6:16 P.M.

**UNION COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
2024 MEETING SCHEDULE**

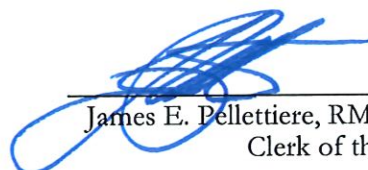
**REORGANIZATION MEETING - THURSDAY, JANUARY 4, 2024 at 6:00 PM
Union County Courthouse- 2 Broad Street. Elizabeth**

AGENDA SETTING SESSION

Thursday, January 25, 2024
 Wednesday, February 7, 2024
 Wednesday, February 21, 2024
 Wednesday, March 13, 2024
 Wednesday, March 27, 2024
 Wednesday, April 10, 2024
 Wednesday, April 24, 2024
 Wednesday, May 8, 2024
 Wednesday, May 22, 2024
 Wednesday, June 5, 2024
 Wednesday, June 19, 2024
 Wednesday, July 17, 2024
 Wednesday, August 14, 2024
 Wednesday, September 11, 2024
 Wednesday, September 25, 2024
 Wednesday, October 9, 2024
 Wednesday, October 23, 2024
 Wednesday, November 13, 2024
 Wednesday, December 4, 2024
 Wednesday, December 18, 2024

REGULAR MEETINGS

Thursday, January 25, 2024
 Wednesday, February 7, 2024
 Wednesday, February 21, 2024
 Wednesday, March 13, 2024
 Wednesday, March 27, 2024
 Wednesday, April 10, 2024
 Wednesday, April 24, 2024
 Wednesday, May 8, 2024
 Wednesday, May 22, 2024
 Wednesday, June 5, 2024
 Wednesday, June 19, 2024
 Wednesday, July 17, 2024
 Wednesday, August 14, 2024
 Wednesday, Sept. 11, 2024
 Wednesday, Sept. 25, 2024
 Wednesday, October 9, 2024
 Wednesday, October 23, 2024
 Wednesday, Nov. 13, 2024
 Wednesday, Dec. 4, 2024
 Wednesday, Dec. 18, 2024



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

Please note that the County Commissioners' meetings, with the exception of the January 25, 2024 meetings, are to be regularly held on Wednesday evenings. These meetings 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. Persons requiring a sign language interpreter should contact the Office of the Clerk of the Board at 908-527-4140.