



UNION COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2024
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

Chairwoman Palmieri-Mouded presided over the meeting and called the meeting to order at 6:16 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.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

To the extent known, the following item will be discussed in Executive Session:

1) Attorney client privileged discussion concerning review and contract negotiation for Cornerstone Behavioral Health Hospital of Union County.

County Counsel Bergen stated that pursuant to provisions of the Open Public Meetings Act, a public body could 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 discussion concerning review and contract negotiation for Cornerstone Behavioral Health Hospital of Union County.

He stated that the minutes of the Executive Session would be separated from the minutes of the Open Public Session and that the minutes of the Executive Session, redacted as appropriate and necessary, would be available in approximately 30 days. He stated that the Clerk of the Board would 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 could enter Executive Session and upon the Board's return may or may not take formal action on the matters discussed.

Chairwoman Palmieri-Mouded called for a motion to enter into Executive Session. On a motion made by Commissioner Mirabella and seconded by Commissioner Williams, roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative, with Commissioner Delisfort absent.

Chairwoman Palmieri-Mouded called for a motion to return from Executive Session. On a motion made by Commissioner Mirabella and seconded by Commissioner Williams, roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative, with Commissioner Delisfort absent.

County Counsel Bergen advised that he had nothing to report following Executive Session.

APPROVAL OF COMMUNICATIONS

Note and File

Chairwoman Palmieri-Mouded called for a motion to approve the Communications. 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 Delisfort absent.

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 called for a motion to approve the January Minutes. On a motion made by Commissioner Leon and seconded by Commissioner Bodek, roll call showed seven votes in the affirmative for the January 4th, 2024 Installation Ceremony and Reorganization Meeting Minutes, with Commissioner Williams abstaining and Commissioner Delisfort absent; seven votes in the affirmative with Commissioner Kowalski abstaining and Commissioner Delisfort absent for the January 25th Agenda Setting Meeting Minutes; and six votes in the affirmative for the January 25th Regular Meeting, with Commissioner Granados and Commissioner Kowalski abstaining and Commissioner Delisfort absent.

ORDINANCE FOR ADOPTION

Clerk of the Board Pelletiere read Ordinance 848-2024 by title.

Commissioner Williams left the meeting.

848-2024 AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND "THE LAWS OF UNION COUNTY: ADMINISTRATIVE CODE AND POLICIES AND GENERAL LEGISLATION" BY AMENDING PART I-ADMINISTRATIVE CODE: CHAPTER 1, UNION COUNTY GOVERNMENT STRUCTURE AND PART II-POLICIES AND GENERAL LEGISLATION: CHAPTER 26, BENEFITS.

PUBLIC COMMENT PORTION

County Counsel Bergen addressed Mr. Bruce Paterson prior to the start of the meeting and reminded him of the by-laws governing the Union County Board of County Commissioner meetings in light of Mr. Paterson's alleged behavior at a previous meeting.

The meeting was opened for the purposes of commenting on Ordinance Number 848-2024 only.

Bruce Paterson, of Garwood, asked for additional information related to the changes being made and asked whether or not this item was related to Reso No. 2024-178.

County Manager Oatman advised that this ordinance was meant to clarify the terms of health benefit plans for retirees. He added that Ordinance 848-2024 was not related to Reso No. 2024-178.

There were no additional questions or comments.

FINAL READING STATEMENT

Commissioner Alexander Mirabella, Policy and Administrative Code Chair, moved Ordinance Number 848-2024 for Final Reading and authorized the Clerk of the Board to advertise same in accordance with the law.

On a motion made by Commissioner Mirabella and seconded by Commissioner Kowalski, roll call showed seven votes in the affirmative, with Commissioner Delisfort and Commissioner Williams absent.

ORDINANCE FOR INTRODUCTION

Clerk of the Board Pelletiere read Ordinance 849-2024 by title.

849-2024 MODIFY THE UNION COUNTY DISTRICT SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN TO: (1) INCLUDE THE WASTE MANAGEMENT OF NEW JERSEY, INC. FACILITIES IN ELIZABETH, NEW JERSEY, AS THE COUNTY'S DESIGNATED FACILITIES TO WHICH SOLID WASTE TYPES 13, 13C, 23 AND 27 ARE DIRECTED FOR DISPOSAL; (2) INCORPORATE THE SOLID WASTE DISPOSAL SERVICES AGREEMENT BY AND BETWEEN THE UNION COUNTY UTILITIES AUTHORITY AND WASTE MANAGEMENT OF NEW JERSEY, INC. FOR THE PROVISION OF DISPOSAL SERVICES FOR SOLID WASTE TYPES 13, 13C, 23 AND 27; AND (3) DIRECT ALL SOLID WASTE TYPES 13, 13C, 23 AND 27 TO THE WASTE MANAGEMENT OF NEW JERSEY,

**INC. FACILITIES IN ELIZABETH, NEW JERSEY FOR DISPOSAL,
PURSUANT TO REGULATORY WASTE FLOW CONTROL.**

Commissioner Williams returned to the meeting.

FIRST READING STATEMENT

Commissioner Sergio Granados, Union County Utilities Authority Liaison, moved Ordinance Number 849-2024 for First Reading and authorized the Clerk of the Board to advertise same in accordance with the law. The Public Hearing and Final Reading will be held on March 13, 2024.

On a motion made by Commissioner Granados and seconded by Commissioner Mirabella, roll call showed eight votes in the affirmative, with Commissioner Delisfort absent.

2024 EXECUTIVE BUDGET STATEMENT

County Manager Edward T. Oatman presented the 2024 Executive Budget to the Board of County Commissioners.

County Manager Oatman addressed the public:

As County Manager, I am pleased to present the 2024 Executive Budget. For the last four years, we have maintained a 0% tax increase. In order to sustain our commitment to providing quality services and programs for our residents, it is necessary to make the difficult decision to submit a 2024 Budget with a 1.75% tax increase which is driven by inflation, rising operating cost, and labor market challenges. Despite this, our AAA credit rating is maintained, reflecting a strong fiscal responsibility. Union County also continues to prioritize shared services to overcome funding challenges which optimize our resources. This decision was not made lightly. We want to assure the community that every effort has been made to minimize the impact on our residents. We appreciate the community's understanding and support as we navigate these fiscal challenges to uphold Union County's high quality of life. I want to thank our Board of County Commissioners; our Department heads for their support; specifically the Department of Finance, including Director Bibi Taylor, John Dzedzic, Ali Henriques, who have worked tirelessly in this process in crafting this budget.

PUBLIC COMMENT PORTION

The meeting was opened for the purpose of commenting on resolutions being offered for adoption and on any governmental issue that a member of the public feels may be of concern to the residents of the county.

Brian Wilson, of Roselle Park, thanked the Board as well as Acting Engineering Director Policay and County Engineer Matias for the update they provided during the prior meeting relative to Ash Brook Golf Course. He once again noted the issues

at the creek in Ash Brook, adding that he believed the creek to be the cause of the flooding on the fairways. On behalf of the Ash Brook Men's Association, he once again asked the Board to address the issues at Ash Brook Golf Course.

Commissioner Williams left the meeting.

Clark Schneider, of Clark, spoke relative to the Ash Brook Golf Course, adding that based on his research, he believed the issues stemmed from Hurricane Ida and the issues it caused in the creek. He recognized the County's efforts to use an excavator to address the blockage and offered further suggestions on how this issue could be addressed.

Bruce Paterson, of Garwood, made comments and asked questions relative to several resolutions. He made comments relative to the email he received from Counsel Bergen, which was reiterated earlier during the Regular Meeting. He apologized for his behavior, noting that he disagreed with the claims. Relative to Reso No. 2024-165, he asked for additional information on how funding was determined. Relative to Reso No. 2024-187, he asked why this repair was needed. Relative to Reso No. 2024-190, he made comments relative to the Union County Performing Arts Center.

Relative to Reso No. 2024-187, Director Durbin-Drake advised that the bridge was deemed structurally unsound and would need to be replaced. She added that the County had gone out to bid for this project. She further noted that the contract was awarded to the lowest bidder which was less than the County's initial estimate for the work.

Relative to Reso No. 2024-165, County Engineer Matias advised that this item would be used to address various environmental issues throughout various Union County facilities.

Jeff Rysel, of Cranford, and member of the Ash Brook Men's Association, noting the conditions of Ash Brook Golf Course. He advised that the course was often unplayable following a rainstorm. He reiterated the issues at the creek caused by Hurricane Ida.

Bob Gasko, of Westfield, also spoke relative to the conditions at Ash Brook Golf Course. He also noted the rates being paid by senior citizens in comparison to the lesser fees charged by Somerset County for out-of-county players.

Matt Laughlin, of Westfield, noted the loss of access to Ash Brook Golf Course and subsequently, the loss of revenue due to the flooding on site. He noted that the golf course was closed that weekend due to rain.

Ray Moscow, of Scotch Plains, spoke relative to the Ash Brook Golf Course and implored the Board to address the issues on site and make the course playable again.

Relative to Ash Brook Golf Course, County Engineer Matias noted the Department's focus on long-term improvements to the course to mitigate future issues.

County Manager Oatman confirmed that the County had purchased an excavator with the intention of using it to clear some of the blockage at the creek at Ash Brook Golf Course. County Engineer Matias confirmed this to be the case.

RESOLUTIONS FOR ADOPTION

The following resolutions are being offered for adoption:

- 2024-158 COMMISSIONER JAMES BAKER JR:** 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.

On a motion made by Commissioner Mirabella and seconded by Commissioner Baker, roll call showed six members of the Board voted in the affirmative, with Commissioner Kowalski abstaining and Commissioner Delisfort and Commissioner Williams absent.

- 2024-159 COMMISSIONER JAMES BAKER JR:** 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.

On a motion made by Commissioner Mirabella and seconded by Commissioner Baker, roll call showed seven members of the Board voted in the affirmative, with Commissioner Delisfort and Commissioner Williams absent.

- 2024-160 COMMISSIONER JAMES BAKER JR:** 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.

On a motion made by Commissioner Mirabella and seconded by Commissioner Baker, roll call showed seven members of the Board voted in the affirmative, with Commissioner Delisfort and Commissioner Williams absent.

- 2024-161 COMMISSIONER JAMES BAKER JR:** 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.

On a motion made by Commissioner Mirabella and seconded by Commissioner Baker, roll call showed seven members of the Board voted in the affirmative, with Commissioner Delisfort and Commissioner Williams absent.

2024-162 COMMISSIONER JOSEPH C BODEK: 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.

On a motion made by Commissioner Mirabella and seconded by Commissioner Baker, roll call showed seven members of the Board voted in the affirmative, with Commissioner Delisfort and Commissioner Williams absent.

2024-163 COMMISSIONER JOSEPH C BODEK: 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.

On a motion made by Commissioner Mirabella and seconded by Commissioner Baker, roll call showed seven members of the Board voted in the affirmative, with Commissioner Delisfort and Commissioner Williams absent.

2024-164 COMMISSIONER JOSEPH C BODEK: 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.

On a motion made by Commissioner Mirabella and seconded by Commissioner Baker, roll call showed seven members of the Board voted in the affirmative, with Commissioner Delisfort and Commissioner Williams absent.

2024-165 COMMISSIONER JOSEPH C BODEK: 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.

On a motion made by Commissioner Mirabella and seconded by Commissioner Baker, roll call showed seven members of the Board voted in the affirmative, with Commissioner Delisfort and Commissioner Williams absent.

2024-166 COMMISSIONER JOSEPH C BODEK: 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.

On a motion made by Commissioner Mirabella and seconded by Commissioner Baker, roll call showed seven members of the Board voted in the affirmative, with Commissioner Delisfort and Commissioner Williams absent.

2024-167 COMMISSIONER JOSEPH C BODEK: 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.

On a motion made by Commissioner Mirabella and seconded by Commissioner Baker, roll call showed seven members of the Board voted in the affirmative, with Commissioner Delisfort and Commissioner Williams absent.

2024-168 COMMISSIONER JOSEPH C BODEK: 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.)

On a motion made by Commissioner Mirabella and seconded by Commissioner Baker, roll call showed seven members of the Board voted in the affirmative, with Commissioner Delisfort and Commissioner Williams absent.

2024-169 COMMISSIONER SERGIO GRANADOS: 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.

On a motion made by Commissioner Mirabella and seconded by Commissioner Baker, roll call showed seven members of the Board voted in the affirmative, with Commissioner Delisfort and Commissioner Williams absent.

2024-170 COMMISSIONER SERGIO GRANADOS: 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.

On a motion made by Commissioner Mirabella and seconded by Commissioner Baker, roll call showed seven members of the Board voted in the affirmative, with Commissioner Delisfort and Commissioner Williams absent.

2024-171 COMMISSIONER SERGIO GRANADOS: 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.

On a motion made by Commissioner Mirabella and seconded by Commissioner Baker, roll call showed seven members of the Board voted in the affirmative, with Commissioner Delisfort and Commissioner Williams absent.

2024-172 COMMISSIONER BETTE JANE KOWALSKI: 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.

On a motion made by Commissioner Mirabella and seconded by Commissioner Baker, roll call showed seven members of the Board voted in the affirmative, with Commissioner Delisfort and Commissioner Williams absent.

2024-173 COMMISSIONER BETTE JANE KOWALSKI: Authorizing the County Manager to apply for and to enter into an agreement with the NJ Department of Community Affairs (NJDCA) to secure grant funding from the FY24 Shared Library Services Grant, in an amount not to exceed \$250,000.00.

On a motion made by Commissioner Mirabella and seconded by Commissioner Baker, roll call showed seven members of the Board voted in the affirmative, with Commissioner Delisfort and Commissioner Williams absent.

2024-174 COMMISSIONER BETTE JANE KOWALSKI: Authorizing the County Manager to designate the Office of Cultural and Heritage Affairs as the Official County Cultural and Heritage Agency.

On a motion made by Commissioner Mirabella and seconded by Commissioner Baker, roll call showed seven members of the Board voted in the affirmative, with Commissioner Delisfort and Commissioner Williams absent.

2024-175 COMMISSIONER REBECCA LYNNE WILLIAMS: Amending the 2024 Temporary Budget Ch. 96 P.L. 1951 (N.J.S.A. 40A:4-20).

On a motion made by Commissioner Mirabella and seconded by Commissioner Baker, roll call showed seven members of the Board voted in the affirmative, with Commissioner Delisfort and Commissioner Williams absent.

2024-176 COMMISSIONER REBECCA LYNNE WILLIAMS: Approving a list of pre-qualified financial advisors for the Year 2024.

On a motion made by Commissioner Mirabella and seconded by Commissioner Baker, roll call showed seven members of the Board voted in the affirmative, with Commissioner Delisfort and Commissioner Williams absent.

2024-177 COMMISSIONER REBECCA LYNNE WILLIAMS: 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.

On a motion made by Commissioner Mirabella and seconded by Commissioner Baker, roll call showed seven members of the Board voted in the affirmative, with Commissioner Delisfort and Commissioner Williams absent.

2024-178 COMMISSIONER REBECCA LYNNE WILLIAMS: Approving positions subject to enrollment in the Defined Contribution Retirement Program.

On a motion made by Commissioner Mirabella and seconded by Commissioner Baker, roll call showed seven members of the Board voted in the affirmative, with Commissioner Delisfort and Commissioner Williams absent.

2024-179 COMMISSIONER REBECCA LYNNE WILLIAMS, & THE ENTIRE BOARD:
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.

On a motion made by Commissioner Mirabella and seconded by Commissioner Baker, roll call showed seven members of the Board voted in the affirmative, with Commissioner Delisfort and Commissioner Williams absent.

2024-180 COMMISSIONER REBECCA LYNNE WILLIAMS, & THE ENTIRE BOARD:
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.

On a motion made by Commissioner Mirabella and seconded by Commissioner Baker, roll call showed seven members of the Board voted in the affirmative, with Commissioner Delisfort and Commissioner Williams absent.

2024-181 COMMISSIONER REBECCA LYNNE WILLIAMS, & THE ENTIRE BOARD:
Sponsoring the City of Rahway in an amount not to exceed \$8,000.00 in support of their Celebrations taking place throughout the year.

On a motion made by Commissioner Mirabella and seconded by Commissioner Baker, roll call showed seven members of the Board voted in the affirmative, with Commissioner Delisfort and Commissioner Williams absent.

2024-182 COMMISSIONER REBECCA LYNNE WILLIAMS, & THE ENTIRE BOARD:
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.

On a motion made by Commissioner Mirabella and seconded by Commissioner Baker, roll call showed seven members of the Board voted in the affirmative, with Commissioner Delisfort and Commissioner Williams absent.

2024-183 COMMISSIONER REBECCA LYNNE WILLIAMS, & THE ENTIRE BOARD:
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.

On a motion made by Commissioner Mirabella and seconded by Commissioner Baker, roll call showed seven members of the Board voted in the affirmative, with Commissioner Delisfort and Commissioner Williams absent.

2024-184 COMMISSIONER REBECCA LYNNE WILLIAMS, & THE ENTIRE BOARD:
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.

On a motion made by Commissioner Mirabella and seconded by Commissioner Baker, roll call showed seven members of the Board voted in the affirmative, with Commissioner Delisfort and Commissioner Williams absent.

2024-185 VICE-CHAIRWOMAN LOURDES M. LEON: 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.

On a motion made by Commissioner Mirabella and seconded by Commissioner Baker, roll call showed seven members of the Board voted in the affirmative, with Commissioner Delisfort and Commissioner Williams absent.

2024-186 VICE-CHAIRWOMAN LOURDES M. LEON: 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.

On a motion made by Commissioner Mirabella and seconded by Commissioner Baker, roll call showed seven members of the Board voted in the affirmative, with Commissioner Delisfort and Commissioner Williams absent.

2024-187 VICE-CHAIRWOMAN LOURDES M. LEON: 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.

On a motion made by Commissioner Mirabella and seconded by Commissioner Baker, roll call showed seven members of the Board voted in the affirmative, with Commissioner Delisfort and Commissioner Williams absent.

2024-188 VICE-CHAIRWOMAN LOURDES M. LEON: 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.

On a motion made by Commissioner Mirabella and seconded by Commissioner Baker, roll call showed seven members of the Board voted in the affirmative, with Commissioner Delisfort and Commissioner Williams absent.

2024-189 VICE-CHAIRWOMAN LOURDES M. LEON: 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.

On a motion made by Commissioner Mirabella and seconded by Commissioner Baker, roll call showed seven members of the Board voted in the affirmative, with Commissioner Delisfort and Commissioner Williams absent.

2024-190 VICE-CHAIRWOMAN LOURDES M. LEON: 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.

On a motion made by Commissioner Mirabella and seconded by Commissioner Baker, roll call showed seven members of the Board voted in the affirmative, with Commissioner Delisfort and Commissioner Williams absent.

2024-191 CHAIRWOMAN KIMBERLY PALMIERI-MOUEDED: 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.

On a motion made by Commissioner Mirabella and seconded by Commissioner Baker, roll call showed seven members of the Board voted in the affirmative, with Commissioner Delisfort and Commissioner Williams absent.

2024-192 CHAIRWOMAN KIMBERLY PALMIERI-MOUEDED: 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.

On a motion made by Commissioner Mirabella and seconded by Commissioner Baker, roll call showed seven members of the Board voted in the affirmative, with Commissioner Delisfort and Commissioner Williams absent.

2024-193 CHAIRWOMAN KIMBERLY PALMIERI-MOUEDED: 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.

On a motion made by Commissioner Mirabella and seconded by Commissioner Baker, roll call showed seven members of the Board voted in the affirmative, with Commissioner Delisfort and Commissioner Williams absent.

2024-194 CHAIRWOMAN KIMBERLY PALMIERI-MOUEDED: 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.

On a motion made by Commissioner Mirabella and seconded by Commissioner Baker, roll call showed seven members of the Board voted in the affirmative, with Commissioner Delisfort and Commissioner Williams absent.

2024-195 CHAIRWOMAN KIMBERLY PALMIERI-MOUEDED: 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.

On a motion made by Commissioner Mirabella and seconded by Commissioner Baker, roll call showed seven members of the Board voted in the affirmative, with Commissioner Delisfort and Commissioner Williams absent.

2024-196 CHAIRWOMAN KIMBERLY PALMIERI-MOUEDED: 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.

On a motion made by Commissioner Mirabella and seconded by Commissioner Baker, roll call showed seven members of the Board voted in the affirmative, with Commissioner Delisfort and Commissioner Williams absent.

2024-197 CHAIRWOMAN KIMBERLY PALMIERI-MOUEDED: 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.

On a motion made by Commissioner Mirabella and seconded by Commissioner Baker, roll call showed seven members of the Board voted in the affirmative, with Commissioner Delisfort and Commissioner Williams absent.

2024-198 CHAIRWOMAN KIMBERLY PALMIERI-MOUEDED: 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.

On a motion made by Commissioner Mirabella and seconded by Commissioner Baker, roll call showed seven members of the Board voted in the affirmative, with Commissioner Delisfort and Commissioner Williams absent.

2024-199 CHAIRWOMAN KIMBERLY PALMIERI-MOUEDED: Appointing the following members to the Industrial Pollution Control Financing Authority of Union County: Amy Crisp-Wagner; Bruce H. Bergen; James E. Pellettiere; Samantha Perez; and Nancy Malta.

LAU On a motion made by Commissioner Mirabella and seconded by Commissioner Baker, roll call showed seven members of the Board voted in the affirmative, with Commissioner Delisfort and Commissioner Williams absent.

LAUDATORY RESOLUTIONS AND RESOLUTIONS OF CONDOLENCES

2024-200 COMMISSIONER SERGIO GRANADOS, & THE ENTIRE BOARD: Recognizing and congratulating the Portuguese Instructive Social Club on its 102nd Anniversary Celebration.

On a motion made by Commissioner Mirabella and seconded by Commissioner Baker, roll call showed seven members of the Board voted in the affirmative, with Commissioner Delisfort and Commissioner Williams absent.

2024-201 COMMISSIONER ALEXANDER MIRABELLA, & THE ENTIRE BOARD: 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.

On a motion made by Commissioner Mirabella and seconded by Commissioner Baker, roll call showed seven members of the Board voted in the affirmative, with Commissioner Delisfort and Commissioner Williams absent.

2024-202 VICE-CHAIRWOMAN LOURDES M. LEON, & THE ENTIRE BOARD: Congratulating Kristian Cortizo on being named the new Head Baseball Coach of the Elizabeth Minutemen.

On a motion made by Commissioner Mirabella and seconded by Commissioner Baker, roll call showed seven members of the Board voted in the affirmative, with Commissioner Delisfort and Commissioner Williams absent.

2024-203 VICE-CHAIRWOMAN LOURDES M. LEON, & THE ENTIRE BOARD: Congratulating the Elizabeth High School Girls Basketball Team upon winning the Union County Girls Basketball Tournament.

On a motion made by Commissioner Mirabella and seconded by Commissioner Baker, roll call showed seven members of the Board voted in the affirmative, with Commissioner Delisfort and Commissioner Williams absent.

2024-204 CHAIRWOMAN KIMBERLY PALMIERI-MOUDED, & THE ENTIRE BOARD: Congratulating Crane's Ford Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution upon celebrating its 80th Anniversary on March 9, 2024.

On a motion made by Commissioner Mirabella and seconded by Commissioner Baker, roll call showed seven members of the Board voted in the affirmative, with Commissioner Delisfort and Commissioner Williams absent.

COMMISSIONER REPORTS AND COMMENTS

Commissioner Bodek reminded voters wishing to change their party affiliation that the deadline to do so was April 10th in order to voter in the Primary Election on June 4th 2024. He added that this deadline did not apply to voters who were currently listed as unaffiliated. He further advised that as a result of new legislation passed in 2023 and updated in 2024, all unaffiliated voters who were designated to receive vote-by mail ballots for all future elections would have until May 28th, 2024 to change their party affiliation. He also added that unaffiliated voters could also declare their party affiliation during early voting from May 29th – June 2nd and or on June 4th, Primary Election Day.

Commissioner Mirabella recognized Commissioner Kowalski relative to her recent appointment as 3rd Vice-Chair of the Board of Trustees of the NJ Transportation Planning Authority. He noted the vital role played by NJTPA in prioritizing funding for local safety improvement projects, adding that Union County had secured \$10,700,000 to fund fourteen intersection projects, including crosswalks and accessible curb ramps, in five Union County municipalities—Berkeley Heights, Linden, New Providence, Roselle, and Summit. Commissioner Mirabella commended Commissioner Kowalski's for her long-standing advocacy related to transportation improvements, open space, social services and cultural affairs, noting her as a member of the Raritan Valley Rail Coalition and the NJTPA as well as the Project Prioritization Committee and other freight initiative committees. Commissioner Mirabella also spoke of his recent attendance of a NACo Conference in Washington D.C., noting that he led a national panel discussion on assault tax and its financially debilitating effects on NJ residents. He added that NACo was advocating for changes at the congressional and federal level to remove the cap and restore the option for a full deduction.

Commissioner Kowalski thanked Commissioner Mirabella for the recognition. She thanked her Commissioner colleagues for their continued support in her efforts as the 3rd Vice-Chair of the NJTPA. She also thanked Deputy County Manager Wagner and Liza Betz from the County's Bureau of Transportation Planning for their efforts and insight. On another note, Commissioner Kowalski advised that the Board would be awarding the 12th Annual Chester Holmes Humanitarian Award tomorrow night at UCPAC's Hamilton Stage to Union College of Union County's Vice President of Student Development, Dr. Demond Hargrove. She added that the award presentation would be followed by a free jazz performance by The Bob DeVos Jazz Quartet featuring Lance Bryant. She noted that the award was partially funded by the NJ Historical Commission's Division of Cultural Affairs, the Department of State, and the NJ State Council on the Arts. She also noted a free, upcoming presentation by Seton Hall Professor Edward Hartnett on March 4th at the Union County Courthouse, related to the landmark Supreme Court Case 'Gibbons v. Ogden: Its Continuing Importance 200 Years Later,' which involved steam boat navigation.

Commissioner Baker advised residents that the deadline for voter registration for Westfield's Annual School Board Election on April 16th was Tuesday, March 26th. He advised that voting would be conducted in person and encouraged voters to visit the County's website to confirm their polling location. For residents voting by mail, he advised that ballots could be dropped off at a secure ballot drop box located at the Colleen Frasier Building at 300 North Avenue East in Westfield.

Commissioner Granados spoke relative to County Manager Oatman's extensive experience at the federal, state, and local level, adding that he was a great asset to Union County. He noted County Manager Oatman's dedication and hard work as well as his tireless commitment to working with the Commissioner Board to improve the lives of all residents in Union County. Commissioner Granados also noted the Commissioner Board's female majority, adding that the County Directors were also predominantly female. He spoke relative to the County's fiscal health, illustrated by its triple AAA bond rating and four years of a 0% tax increase, and recognized the efforts of County Manager Oatman and Finance Director Taylor to this end.

Vice-Chairwoman Leon invited residents to attend the upcoming Woodcock Talk & Walk presentation taking place on March 18th at Masker's Barn at the Deserted Village and March 21st at Lenape Park. She encouraged nature enthusiasts and bird lovers to participate in this guided indoor/outdoor experience, led by Pete Axelrod. She noted that while the event was free and open to adults and children, registration could be completed on the County website. She advised that children under 10 were required to be accompanied by an adult.

Chairwoman Palmieri-Mouded noted that since becoming Chairwoman of the Board she had been impressed and humbled by the dedication of Union County personnel and staff, noting that their efforts were noticed and appreciated. She added that she was proud to be part of Union County. She reiterated the County's commitment to improving the lives of residents by providing invaluable resources and services. On another note, she referenced the issues at Ash Brook Golf Course and confirmed that the County was focused on addressing these issues in a timely fashion and would update residents about the progress being made on site.

ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting was adjourned at 7:36 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. Pelletiere, 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.