

**HUNTERDON COUNTY BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS
TELECONFERENCE MEETING**

71 Main Street, Freeholder's Meeting Room, 2nd Floor
Flemington, New Jersey 08822

August 18, 2020

Dial-In Number: 720-399-1558 or 877-658-5107

Passcode: 403752

4:30 p.m. CONVENE: "This meeting is being held in accordance with the provisions of the Open Public Meetings Act. Adequate notice has been given by posting throughout the year a copy of the notice on Bulletin Boards on the First and Second Floor of the Main Street County Complex, Building #1, Flemington, New Jersey, a public place reserved for such announcements. A copy was mailed on or before January 07, 2020, to the Hunterdon County Democrat, Star Ledger, Trenton Times, Courier News, TAPinto (online) and the Express Times, newspapers designated to receive such notices and by filing a copy with the Hunterdon County Clerk."

EXECUTIVE SESSION

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – 5:30 p.m.

MOMENT OF SILENCE

REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNSEL ON EXECUTIVE SESSION

FREEHOLDER REPORTS

Ms. Soloway reported on the power outages that occurred during Tropical Storm Isaias. Ms. Soloway also provided some general public health updates and spoke about state and federal programs aimed at landlords that have not been able to collect rents during the public health emergency.

Mr. Lanza reported Tropical Isaias and the economic impact to homeowners and businesses from prolonged power outages. Mr. Lanza noted that Senator Kip Bateman has introduced legislation to require power companies to compensate homeowners from lost food and medicine resulting from prolonged power outages. Mr. Lanza also commented on the drive-in concert that was held last week. Mr. Lanza also reported on upcoming movies and concert dates hosted by the Division of Parks.

Mr. Rich also reported on Tropical Storm Isaias, and its impact to county roadways and bridges. Mr. Rich also provided an update on the Department of Public Works. Mr. Rich noted that the Hunterdon County Library provided cooling centers and charging stations during the storm event and subsequent power outage. Mr. Rich also thanked the Director and Deputy Director for their help on the storm response. Mr. Rich also noted that the Workforce Development Board reported that the unemployment has dropped and continues to drop since March 2020.

Mr. Holt withheld comments till the end.

Mr. Van Doren reported on Tropical Storm Isaias and spoke about the response from power utilities. Director Van Doren thanked Freeholder Lanza pursuing legislation from Senator Bateman to hold power utilities accountable for prolonged outages that result in lost food and medicine. Mr. Van Doren commented on the ongoing work of the county's workforce and the fact that Hunterdon County has stayed open and operating since March despite COVID-19. Mr. Van Doren thanked all of the workers and stated that he was proud to say Hunterdon County has remained open for business.

UPDATE ON GENERAL ELECTION: **Mary H. Melfi, County Clerk** reported on Executive Order No. 177 signed by Governor Murphy calling for an all vote-by-mail November General Election. Clerk Melfi provided an overview of the rules and how to use the mail in ballot, and where to send the ballot too once completed. Clerk Melfi also provided an overview of the drop boxes for the ballots. Clerk Melfi noted that nearly 100,000 ballots will be sent out to registered voters in Hunterdon County.

PARKS REPORT / CULTURAL AND HERITAGE GRANTS: **Carrie Fellows, Director of Planning and Land Use** gave a report on the recent increase in visitors to Hunterdon County Parks. Reminded the public that there are restrictions at these parks, and they should be followed. There are electronic signs that are posted more around the parks,

and the sheriff's department and municipal police officers have been providing increased patrols.

See Page 08/18/2020-2A RESOLUTION

RESOLUTION #2020-481 – RESOLVED, Authorizing award of Special Project Grants as recommended by the Hunterdon County Cultural and Heritage Commission totaling \$22,500.00.

Moved: Mr. Lanza

Seconded: Mr. Rich

Roll Call (Ayes): Mr. Lanza, Mr. Rich, Mr. Holt, Ms. Soloway, Mr. Van Doren

PRESENTATION ON TROPICAL STORM RESPONSE: Brayden Fahey, OEM Coordinator

HEALTH DEPARTMENT UPDATE: Karen DeMarco, Director provided a COVID-19 update for Hunterdon County, and highlighted the Health Department's recent work. Reported that positive cases have remained stable in Hunterdon County for the last few weeks, averaging 3 cases per day. Ms. DeMarco also noted that the transmission rate in Hunterdon County has decreased to below 1 this week. The 9-1-1 calls related to respiratory illness has reduced compared to the peak of the outbreak. The State Health Department is now providing a weekly COVID-19 Activity Level Report broken out by regions of the state, Hunterdon County is in the Central West region. The report is available on the County's Health Departments website. School reopening is a main concern in the news and in the community. The Governor's Executive Order to reopen schools and universities in the fall must allow districts to provide an all virtual environment is health and safety guidelines cannot be met.

FINANCE: Janet Previte, CFO

See Page 08/18/2020-2B RESOLUTION

RESOLUTION #2020-482 – RESOLVED, Requesting the insertion of an item of revenue and the like sum as an appropriation in the 2020 County Budget for additional funds received for the Overdose Fatality Review Team (OFRT) Grant, in the amount of \$100,000.00, from the New Jersey Department of Health.

Moved: Mr. Holt

Seconded: Mr. Rich

Roll Call (Ayes): Mr. Holt, Mr. Rich, Mr. Lanza, Ms. Soloway, Mr. Van Doren

See Page 08/18/2020-2C RESOLUTION

RESOLUTION #2020-483 – RESOLVED, Authorizing the cancellation of the balances of certain grant fund receivables and appropriated reserve balances.

Moved: Ms. Soloway

Seconded: Mr. Rich

Roll Call (Ayes): Ms. Soloway, Mr. Rich, Mr. Holt, Mr. Lanza, Mr. Van Doren

OPEN SPACE / FARMLAND: William Millette, Senior Planner

See Page 08/18/2020-2D RESOLUTION

RESOLUTION #2020-484 – RESOLVED, Authorizing the purchase of Block 61, Lot 5, in the Township of Readington, known as Stanton Manor, in the amount of \$300,000.00 and authorizing the Freeholder Director, Office of County Counsel, and Department of Planning and Land Use to take all action necessary to accomplish this acquisition.

Moved: Mr. Lanza

Seconded: Mr. Holt

Roll Call (Ayes): Mr. Lanza, Mr. Holt, Mr. Rich, Ms. Soloway, Mr. Van Doren

Mr. Van Doren commented on the addition of 40-acres into the County's Open Space portfolio. The property helps to protect the South Branch and the Prescott Brook Waterways. Congratulated Mr. Millette on this accomplishment, and Readington Township for the support and help to make this happen.

Mr. Lanza stated that this is what the County's Open Space Strategic Plan envisioned when it was adopted by the Board in 2018. Mr. Lanza noted this preservation was first discussed in 2016 and it was worth the wait.

PURCHASING: Ray Rule, Purchasing Agent

See Page 08/18/2020-3A RESOLUTION

RESOLUTION #2020-485 – RESOLVED, Authorizing award of County Bid #2020-09 to Dutchman Contracting, LLC, for the construction of a new brine pole structure, in an amount not to exceed \$164,668.00.

Moved: Mr. Rich

Seconded: Mr. Holt

Roll Call (Ayes): Mr. Rich, Mr. Holt, Mr. Lanza, Ms. Soloway, Mr. Van Doren

See Page 08/18/2020-3B RESOLUTION

RESOLUTION #2020-486 – RESOLVED, Authorizing Contract Amendment #1 with Johnson, Mirmiran & Thompson, Inc. for additional engineering services relating to increasing the clearance height of Hunterdon County Bridge 1050-161, on County Route 579, in the Township of Bethlehem and Borough of Bloomsbury, in an amount not to exceed \$76,850.88.

Moved: Mr. Lanza

Seconded: Mr. Rich

Roll Call (Ayes): Mr. Lanza, Mr. Rich, Mr. Holt, Ms. Soloway, Mr. Van Doren

See Page 08/18/2020-3C RESOLUTION

RESOLUTION #2020-487 – RESOLVED, Authorizing Requisition #R0-04408 to Solar Technology, Inc. for the acquisition of three (3) portable solar powered telescoping tower trailer systems with camera packages, in an amount not to exceed \$51,336.54.

Moved: Ms. Soloway

Seconded: Mr. Lanza

Roll Call (Ayes): Ms. Soloway, Mr. Lanza, Mr. Holt, Mr. Rich, Mr. Van Doren

See Page 08/18/2020-3D RESOLUTION

RESOLUTION #2020-488 – RESOLVED, Authorizing award of County Bid #2020-11 to Bridgeway Associates Corporation, for the painting of various Hunterdon County bridges, in an amount not to exceed \$329,000.00.

Moved: Mr. Holt

Seconded: Mr. Lanza

Roll Call (Ayes): Mr. Holt, Mr. Lanza, Mr. Rich, Ms. Soloway, Mr. Van Doren

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR REPORT: Kevin Davis

See Page 08/18/2020-3E RESOLUTION

RESOLUTION #2020-489 – RESOLVED, Expressing the concern of the Hunterdon County Freeholder Board about the vote-by-mail November General Election and calling upon Governor Murphy for voter choice.

Moved: Mr. Lanza

Seconded: Ms. Soloway

Roll Call (Ayes): Mr. Lanza, Ms. Soloway, Mr. Holt, Mr. Rich, Mr. Van Doren

Ms. Soloway thanked Ms. Melfi for her report on the requirements for the November Election. Ms. Soloway stated that she believes in the ability of the County Clerk and the Election Board in making this process work. Ms. Soloway shared that the primary election was a success but feels as if there should be voter choice for the November General Election.

Mr. Lanza commented on Ms. Soloway's report about the 100th anniversary of Women's Suffrage and noted that its' being hindered in this decision. Mr. Lanza also stated that he believes in the voter's choice. Mr. Lanza noted that Dr. Fauci mentioned earlier in the week that in-person voting could be done with the proper precautions. Therefore, voters should have a choice in how they vote come November according to Mr. Lanza.

See Page 08/18/2020-3F RESOLUTION

RESOLUTION #2020-490 – RESOLVED, Expressing the support of the Hunterdon County Freeholder Board for Senate Bill No. 2836, introduced by Senator Kip Bateman, that requires an electric public utility to reimburse residential customers for the cost of food and prescription medicine spoiled as a result of sustained electric service outage.

Moved: Mr. Lanza

Seconded: Ms. Soloway

Roll Call (Ayes): Mr. Lanza, Ms. Soloway, Mr. Holt, Mr. Rich, Mr. Van Doren

See Page 08/18/2020-5A

RESOLUTION

RESOLUTION #2020-496 – RESOLVED, Confirming the action of Freeholder Director Shaun C. Van Doren to send a grant letter of support to the North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority (NJTPA), on behalf of the Borough of Flemington.

Moved: Mr. Rich

Seconded: Mr. Holt

Roll Call (Ayes): Mr. Rich, Mr. Holt, Mr. Lanza, Ms. Soloway, Mr. Van Doren

See Page 08/18/2020-5B

RESOLUTION

RESOLUTION #2020-497 – RESOLVED, Authorizing the appointment of Patricia Magee as a Confidential Aide, in the Division of Health Services, of the Department of Health.

Moved: Mr. Rich

Seconded: Mr. Holt

Roll Call (Ayes): Mr. Rich, Mr. Holt, Mr. Lanza, Ms. Soloway, Mr. Van Doren

See Page 08/18/2020-5C

RESOLUTION

RESOLUTION #2020-498 – RESOLVED, Authorizing a contractual salary adjustment for Robert Fandel, Equipment Operator in the Division of Roads, of the Department of Public Works, upon the successful completion of 6 months of service in the Equipment Operator title, per the CWA Rank and File contract.

Moved: Mr. Rich

Seconded: Mr. Holt

Roll Call (Ayes): Mr. Rich, Mr. Holt, Mr. Lanza, Ms. Soloway, Mr. Van Doren

See Page 08/18/2020-5D

RESOLUTION

RESOLUTION #2020-499 – RESOLVED, Authorizing the advancement of Danielle D’Alise to the title of Public Safety Telecommunicator, in the Division of Communications, of the Department of Public Safety upon the successful completion of the one-year Trainee program.

Moved: Mr. Rich

Seconded: Mr. Holt

Roll Call (Ayes): Mr. Rich, Mr. Holt, Mr. Lanza, Ms. Soloway, Mr. Van Doren

See Page 08/18/2020-5E

RESOLUTION

RESOLUTION #2020-500 – RESOLVED, Authorizing the advancement of Richard Miller to the title of Public Safety Telecommunicator, in the Division of Communications, of the Department of Public Safety upon the successful completion of the one-year Trainee program.

Moved: Mr. Rich

Seconded: Mr. Holt

Roll Call (Ayes): Mr. Rich, Mr. Holt, Mr. Lanza, Ms. Soloway, Mr. Van Doren

See Page 08/18/2020-5F

RESOLUTION

RESOLUTION #2020-501 – RESOLVED, Authorizing the advancement of Joseph Starcher to the title of Public Safety Telecommunicator, in the Division of Communications, of the Department of Public Safety upon the successful completion of the one-year Trainee program.

Moved: Mr. Rich

Seconded: Mr. Holt

Roll Call (Ayes): Mr. Rich, Mr. Holt, Mr. Lanza, Ms. Soloway, Mr. Van Doren

See Page 08/18/2020-5G

RESOLUTION

RESOLUTION #2020-502 – RESOLVED, Authorizing a contractual salary adjustment for Bryan Manning, Equipment Operator in the Division of Roads, of the Department of Public Works, upon the successful completion of one year of service in the Equipment Operator title, per the CWA Rank and File contract.

Moved: Mr. Rich

Seconded: Mr. Holt

Roll Call (Ayes): Mr. Rich, Mr. Holt, Mr. Lanza, Ms. Soloway, Mr. Van Doren

See Page 08/18/2020-5H

RESOLUTION

RESOLUTION #2020-503 – RESOLVED, Authorizing a promotion and salary adjustment for Cody Smith, provisional Road Repairer 1, in the Division of Roads, of the Department of Public Works, upon completion of his 90-day working test period with CDL endorsement.

Moved: Mr. Rich

Seconded: Mr. Holt

Roll Call (Ayes): Mr. Rich, Mr. Holt, Mr. Lanza, Ms. Soloway, Mr. Van Doren

See Page 08/18/2020-6A

RESOLUTION

RESOLUTION #2020-504 – RESOLVED, Confirming the action of Hunterdon County CFO Janet Previte to execute an indemnification statement with the NJTPA for continued grant funding.

Moved: Mr. Rich

Seconded: Mr. Holt

Roll Call (Ayes): Mr. Rich, Mr. Holt, Mr. Lanza, Ms. Soloway, Mr. Van Doren

CORRESPONDENCE

See Page 08/18/2020-6B

RESOLUTION

RESOLUTION #2020-505 – RESOLVED, Approving a request from Liz Johnson of Frenchtown Borough to light up the Historic Hunterdon County Courthouse in pink on Tuesday, October 13th in honor of Metastatic Breast Cancer Awareness Day.

Moved: Ms. Soloway

Seconded: Mr. Holt

Roll Call (Ayes): Ms. Soloway, Mr. Holt, Mr. Lanza, Mr. Rich, Mr. Van Doren

PUBLIC COMMENT

Barbara Sachau – Raritan Township – public comment to be moved to the beginning of the agenda, commented on the libraries and senior centers opening, and Round Valley Reservoir is now opened

Liz Johnson – Frenchtown – thanked for the support to light up the Courthouse for October 13th. Gave information on her event.

FREEHOLDER COMMENTS/REPORTS

Mr. Holt commented on a few agenda items from earlier in the meeting. Mr. Holt commented on the power outages from Tropical Storm Isaias, and the need for JCP&L to update their infrastructure. Mr. Holt reported on the County Economic Development Office and the distribution of CARES Act funding. Commented on the State MOA and how the Health Department has done a great job in conducting contact tracing, COVID-19 testing and the overall management of the County’s response to the public health crisis. Mr. Holt recognized frontline workers, medical personnel, first responders, law enforcement, and the county employees who have continued to work during the pandemic.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

ADJOURN

The Board adjourned at 7:10 PM on a motion by Freeholder Lanza and seconded by Freeholder Holt and carried by voice vote.

Respectfully Submitted.

Brad Myhre, Clerk to the Board

Transcribed by:

Lindsay Heller, Secretary to the Board

**RESOLUTION
ENTERING INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION**

WHEREAS, Section 8 of the Open Public Meetings Act, Chapter 231 P.L. 1975, permits the exclusion of the public from a meeting in certain circumstances; and

WHEREAS, the County is of the opinion that such circumstances presently exist.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of Chosen Freeholders of the County of Hunterdon, State of New Jersey, as follows:

1. The public shall be excluded from discussion of the specified subject matter.
2. The general nature of the subject matter to be discussed is as follows:

I. LEGAL:

- Review of proposed Right-of-Way acquisition offers as prepared by the County Engineer associated with the replacement of Norfolk Southern Lehigh Valley Main Line Railroad ridge 1050-161.
- Review of MOU with the State of New Jersey for COVID-19 reimbursements.
- Review of CODE Blue RFP responses.
- CWA Rank and File negotiations update.

It is anticipated that the minutes on the subject matter of the Executive Session will be made public upon conclusion of the matter under discussion; and in any event, when appropriate pursuant to N.J.S.A. 10:4-6 et seq.

1. The Board of Chosen Freeholders will return to Regular Session and may take further action.
2. This Resolution shall take effect immediately.

CERTIFICATION

I, Brad Myhre, Clerk of the Board of Chosen Freeholders, County of Hunterdon, hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution is a true, complete and accurate copy of a resolution adopted by the Hunterdon County Board of Chosen Freeholders at a meeting held on August 18, 2020.

ROLL CALL	MOVED	SECONDED	AYES	NAYS	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Shaun C. Van Doren, Director			X			
Susan J. Soloway, Deputy Director		X	X			
John E. Lanza, Freeholder	X		X			
J. Matthew Holt, Freeholder			X			
Zach T. Rich, Freeholder			X			

ADOPTED August 18, 2020

BRAD MYHRE, CLERK