

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

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

March 31, 2020

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

Passcode: 403752

5:30 p.m. CONVENE: "This special 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 March 26, 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."

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

MOMENT OF SILENCE

FREEHOLDER REPORTS

Mr. Lanza – Praised doctors, nurses, emergency staff and 9-1-1 dispatchers for their ongoing help during the COVID19 public health emergency. Hunterdon County Parks and trails remain open for families to use. Mr. Lanza encouraged the public to respect social distancing rules while in public. Hunterdon County playgrounds, soccer fields, and ball fields are closed. Mr. Lanza also expressed his appreciation to the Hunterdon County Park Rangers.

Mr. Rich – The Hunterdon County Library will remain closed due to Executive Order No. 107 and President Trump's social distancing guidelines, as of now, looking at May 1st to reopen. Remote digital and online resources continue to remain available to the public. Construction projects are considered essential work and advertising for bids on projects will remain on going. All projects have been funded by previous ordinances

Mr. Holt – Gave credit to OEM and the Health Department for their work during this time. 70,000 protective items have been sent to Hunterdon County health centers to date. The County's Purchasing Agent Ray has also placed orders to help emergency and health care providers.

Ms. Soloway – Link system continues to provide service to individuals in Hunterdon County. Adjustments have been made to the LINK's normal operations. Shopping, medical transport, and transportation to work remain. Five passengers on a smaller bus at a time to continue to practice social distancing. Cleaning after every drive, and deep cleaning once a week. No tickets to ride the LINK to help lessen the contact between drivers and residents. Donations have been coming through for masks, gloves, and other materials to first responders and general health care personnel. Over 30 donations have been received thus far, with some being anonymous. Thanked groups who donated

Mr. Van Doren – Thanked all who have helped during this time. Public is prohibited from physically entering county offices, but residents can still obtain county services through a phone call or email. Mr. Van Doren noted that he has been hosting conference calls with Hunterdon County mayors. 110,000 personal protective items that have been provided by Hunterdon County for medical providers since February. Mr. Van Doren noted that he has requested 5,000 test kits be provided to Hunterdon County by FEMA. Health Department is providing a daily report on COVID19. Mr. Van Doren also noted that he and Warren County Freeholder Director Rick Gardner have signed a joint letter to Governor Murphy requesting a testing site be setup for the two counties. Five new ventilators have been sent to HMC at no cost through OEM.

Health Department – Karen DeMarco – Provided an overview of the current case count and increase in admissions to the emergency room at Hunterdon Medical Center. Ms. DeMarco reviewed COVID-19 symptoms and what to do if you have these symptoms. Ms. DeMarco encouraged people to stay at home and practice social distancing which includes staying six feet away from one another. Ms. DeMarco noted that the County website is continuing to be updated with information for residents.

OEM – Brayden Fahey – Mr. Fahey noted the County was following FEMA's COVID19 guidelines and that NJ had been approved as a federal disaster area by President Trump. The United Way of Hunterdon County is accepting donations of PPE on behalf of OEM. Mr. Fahey encouraged residents to sign up for alerts from the County OEM office.

COVID-19 ECONOMIC RELIEF MEASURES

See Page 03/31/2020-2A

Resolution

RESOLUTION #2020-243 - RESOLVED, Directing all Hunterdon County Department and Division Heads to review FY20 budget requests to identify potential reductions in discretionary spending.

Moved: Ms. Soloway

Seconded: Mr. Holt

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

See Page 03/31/2020-2B

Resolution

RESOLUTION #2020-244 – RESOLVED, Authorizing a temporary appropriation to address ongoing COVID-19 public health emergency response.

Moved: Mr. Lanza

Seconded: Ms. Soloway

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

See Page 03/31/2020-2C

Resolution

RESOLUTION #2020-245 - RESOLVED, Authorizing an amendment to the Hunterdon County Economic Development Grant Program.

Moved: Mr. Rich

Seconded: Ms. Soloway

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

See Page 03/31/2020-2D

Resolution

RESOLUTION #2020-246 – RESOLVED, Authorizing the Hunterdon County Purchasing Agent to work in consultation with the County CFO to seek and acquire needed resources to combat the COVID-19 public health emergency.

Moved: Mr. Lanza

Seconded: Mr. Holt

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

See Page 03/31/2020-2E

Resolution

RESOLUTION #2020-247 – RESOLVED, Expressing the support of the Hunterdon County Freeholder Board for Governor Murphy to sign bipartisan Assembly Bill No. 3841, which extends the State Income Tax and Corporate Business Tax to match any extension of the federal government's tax filing deadline.

Moved: Ms. Soloway

Seconded: Mr. Lanza

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

See Page 03/31/2020-2F

Resolution

RESOLUTION #2020-248 – RESOLVED, Expressing the support of the Hunterdon County Freeholder Board for Governor Murphy to sign bipartisan Assembly Bill No. 3846, which creates "Temporary Lost Wage Unemployment Program;" allows persons to claim for lost wages due to coronavirus disease 2019, and employers to pay wages to workers ordered under quarantine by licensed healthcare practitioner; appropriates \$20,000,000.

Moved: Mr. Holt

Seconded: Mr. Rich

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

See Page 03/31/2020-2G

Resolution

RESOLUTION #2020-249 – RESOLVED, Expressing the support of the Hunterdon County Freeholder Board for Governor Murphy to sign bipartisan Assembly Bill No. 3856, which makes a FY 2020 supplemental appropriation of \$10 million for healthcare and residential facility sanitation due to coronavirus disease 2019 outbreak.

Moved: Mr. Lanza

Seconded: Mr. Holt

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

See Page 03/31/2020-2H

Resolution

RESOLUTION #2020-250 – RESOLVED, Expressing the support of the Hunterdon County Freeholder Board for Governor Murphy to sign bipartisan Assembly Bill No. 3857, which makes a FY 2020 supplemental appropriation of \$15 million for grants to food banks.

Moved: Mr. Rich

Seconded: Mr. Holt

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

Lisa – no address – Requested assistance gathering food for her family as they are currently living in a motel room with a small refrigerator. Lisa noted that her family is currently receiving

emergency assistance from Hunterdon County and she and her husband are immune compromised. Clerk of the Board Brad Myhre agreed to assist her offline.

Pat Heller – Whitehouse Station – Requested an update as to when a timeline for COVID19 testing site would be in place in Hunterdon County. Mr. Heller also asked if the Freeholder Board had been in touch with federal officials. Director Van Doren noted that the county is still waiting for testing kits and personal protective equipment which has been requested through the NJOEM office to stand up a testing site. Director Van Doren also noted the county has been in regular contact with federal officials and that both Representative Malinowski and Senators Booker and Menendez’s offices have participated in his Hunterdon County Mayors call.

FREEHOLDER REPORTS

Mr. Rich thanked staff for work

Ms. Soloway thanked staff as well and how above and beyond they have gone to help and who is in the front lines of it all.

ADJOURN

The Board adjourned at 6:25 PM on a motion by Mr. Lanza and seconded by Mr. Van Doren with a voice carry.

Respectfully Submitted.

Brad Myhre, Clerk of the Board

Transcribed by:

Lindsay Heller, Secretary to the Board